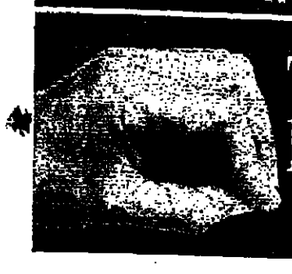
THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,726 FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 1998 (IR50p) 45p

IN THE NEWS



The world's first hand transplant

NEWS, PAGE 13

IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW

Michael, tsar of Co Antrim

REVIEW FRONT

Suzanne Moore: My pet hates

COMMENT, PLUS ARTS, DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE & LAW

Mandelson prepares for nuclear privatisation

THE GOVERNMENT has appointed a leading firm of accountants to advise it on the privatisation of the state-owned nuclear fuel reprocessing company BNFL, which runs the Sellafield complex in Cumbria.

Any decision to sell the company would be hugely controversial because of BNFL's involvement in the nuclear weapons programme and the enormous financial liabilities tied up with the civil nuclear industry.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

The move by Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to appoint advisers shows, however, that Labour is prepared to contemplate a privatisation that even the Conservatives under Margaret Thatcher shirked from.

The firm advising the Government is KPMG, the international accountants and management consultants that worked on many of the privatisations under the previous administration. BNFL is taking advice from the City investment bank Rothschilds, which advised on the sales of British Telecom and British Coal.

The advisory work is understood to be at an early stage and no decision has been taken on whether to sell BNFL.

However, earlier this year ministers allowed BNFL to go ahead with the $1.2bn takeover of the US nuclear contractor Westinghouse. In some quarters, the move was seen as opening the door to partial privatisation of BNFL.

Apart from Sellafield, which reprocesses nuclear waste from UK power stations at the £1.6bn Thorp facility, BNFL also controls Britain's ageing Magnox nuclear reactors, which produce 8 per cent of the country's electricity. When BNFL took charge of the nine Magnox stations last December, it stuck a deal to leave £3.9bn of decommissioning liabilities in the Government's hands. This would clear one of the main obstacles to privatisation.

When the Tories sold off the electricity industry in 1991 they were forced to drop the Magnox stations from the sale because the City was not prepared to shoulder the liabilities.

Since then British Energy, which operates Britain's advanced gas-cooled reactors and the Sizewell PWR, has been sold and has proved one of the most successful privatised stocks.

BNFL has reprocessing contracts with British Energy worth £18bn, which would potentially make it highly attractive to investors. Its American arm, BNFL Inc, has $2.5bn of nuclear clean-up contracts with the US Department of Energy. Last year the business made a pre-tax profit of £199m on turnover of £1.35bn.

Business Outlook, page 19

Iran lifts threat to Rushdie

THE IRANIAN government pledged for the first time yesterday formally to dissociate itself from the religious fatwa placed on the British author, Salman Rushdie, by the late Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989.

Rushdie said last night as he left the Foreign Office after a briefing by the minister Derek Fatchett, that it appeared his ordeal under sentence of death had ended. "It looks like its over," he said. "The fact is that after 10 years an extraordinary thing has been achieved." Asked what the diplomatic move meant to him, he said: "It means everything, it means freedom."

The dramatic agreement, which had been under secret negotiation between the two governments since early this year, was unveiled by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and his Iranian counterpart, Kamal Kharrazi, after talks in New York on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.

It ends nearly 10 years of diplomatic chill between Britain and Iran. Both sides agreed on the normalisation of diplomatic relations and the imminent exchange of ambassadors. A visit by a British minister to Iran is expected shortly.

Rushdie, 51, has been forced to look for assassins around every corner since Valentine's Day 1989 when the late Ayatollah Khomeini issued the fatwa that called upon Muslims to kill the author as punishment for allegedly offending Islam in his book *The Satanic Verses*.

The threat to Rushdie's life may not be completely removed. Britain has long accepted that the Iranian government does not have the power to erase the fatwa, which still has the status of an immutable religious edict. Mr Cook, however, insisted that in the light of yesterday's statement by Mr Kharrazi, the level of danger for the author was "very seriously diminished".

BY DAVID USBORNE in New York

Crucially, Mr Kharrazi said that his government has "no intention, nor is it going to take any action whatsoever to threaten the life of the author of *The Satanic Verses* or anybody associated with his work, nor will it encourage or assist anybody to do so".

There was also a reference in the statement to the $2m (£1.2m) bounty that still remains on the head of Rushdie, offered by the militant Kordad Foundation in Iran. Mr Kharrazi said that the Iranian government "disassociates itself from any reward which has been offered in this regard and does not support it" – but he stopped short of condemning it.

Rushdie: 'Freedom'

Mr Cook insisted that Mr Kharrazi's words amounted to "very much a bolder statement in relation to the bounty than we have had before from the Iranian government".

He hailed his agreement with Mr Kharrazi as "historic", while conceding that some degree of security protection for the author may still be necessary because of the danger of a freelance assassination attempt.

Mr Rushdie has been under permanent protection by officers of the Special Branch; the cost of guarding him has been put at £1m a year. At one stage, he was persuaded by friends to disguise himself in public by wearing a wig.

At a first face-to-face meeting with a British foreign secretary in February this year, Mr Rushdie spoke of his existence in the shadow of terror. "I have tried as far as possible to live without fear. I've tried to get on with my life," he said. The author has made occasional public appearances in recent years.

In the first year of the fatwa, Penguin Books in London, the publisher of *The Satanic Verses*, received numerous terrorist warnings. The Norwegian publisher of the book was also injured after an attack by gunmen.

Dr Ghayasuddin Siddiqui, leader of the self-styled Muslim parliament in Britain, said last night that Rushdie was still in danger from Islamic extremists. "I don't think the Iranian government can do anything at all. They can make promises, but that is all they can do," he said.

Iran has increasingly voiced concern in recent months that the fatwa issue was becoming an obstacle to its hopes of improving diplomatic links with London and with Washington. Britain, for its part, has been searching for a resolution that would allow a resumption of ties increasingly considered to be of critical strategic importance in the Gulf region.

In addition to oil and trade interests, Britain is anxious to have influence in the area, in part because of the balance Iran may provide against its neighbour, Iraq. Iran's proximity to Afghanistan makes a resumption of diplomatic contacts urgent. Drugs are also an issue, because a high percentage of heroin entering Britain is believed to originate in Afghanistan.

A giant wave whipped up by Hurricane Georges sweeps into Mannabo, off Puerto Rico. Miami's warning: Page 15 *AP*

Police in seven forces investigated for drugs, bribery and robberies

MORE THAN 110 police officers in at least seven forces in England and Wales are being investigated, or face charges, in an unprecedented series of anti-corruption inquiries.

There are at least 25 investigations into allegations of wrongdoing by police officers, involving a wide range of suspected offences, including taking bribes, planning robberies and providing confidential information to criminals.

The scale of the national anti-corruption drive emerged as Detective Chief Inspector Elmore Davies, of the Merseyside force, was jailed yesterday for five years for selling sensitive police information for £20,000 to a crime syndicate.

BY JASON BENNETTO and JONATHAN FOSTER

A senior officer said last night: "It has not been politically convenient to accept there is a growing danger of corruption. But this is the policing issue for the next century."

Merseyside Police said a special team formed to investigate Davies, described in court as "a bent copper stewed in corruption", would continue its work.

The Chief Constable, Sir James Sharples, said: "This took place when there was a large amount of shooting between various gangs. There was a considerable danger to the community of Merseyside."

Superintendent Phil Jones, of Merseyside Police, said the case had revealed the vulnerability of British police officers to corruption and the "fabulous" bribes that drug dealers could offer. "Officers have seen their income decrease sharply as overtime and allowances have been abolished. At the same time, the money at the disposal of the drug dealers has become huge. It has not been politically convenient to accept there is a growing danger of corruption. But this is the policing issue for the next century."

Davies became the most senior policeman to be convicted of corruption for almost three decades when a jury at Nottingham Crown Court decided he had perverted the course of justice in return for £20,000 from one of Europe's biggest drug traffickers.

Bugged phone calls and conversations caught Davies, 50, betraying personal details of a police constable shot at while arresting a gunman outside the Venue nightclub, Liverpool, in July 1996.

Two accomplices, including his friend Michael Ahearne, who played Warrior in the TV show *Gladiators*, were convicted of perverting the course of justice. Ahearne, 36, was sentenced to 15 months, and Tony Bray, 38, was jailed for three years. The three, all from the Wirral, Merseyside, had denied a total of six charges.

Davies passed case notes and advice through intermediaries to Curtis Warren, a drug dealer with a fortune estimated at £180m.

Risked lives, page 3

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HOME London bus driver Magnus Mills' first novel has been shortlisted for the £20,000 Booker Prize PAGE 5

FOREIGN Frankenstein met the Bionic Man as the first hand transplant took place in a hospital in Lyons PAGE 13

FOREIGN The Yugoslav army moved to crush the last pockets of armed resistance by ethnic Albanians in Serbia PAGE 14

BUSINESS Barclays has joined the international $3.75bn (£2.2bn) bail-out of a troubled US hedge fund PAGE 19

SPORT The Football Association is to appoint a "sleaze-buster" to clean up the game PAGE 30

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Goldsmiths fund anti-euro move
The family of the late Sir James Goldsmith is jointly to fund a £40m campaign against the single currency, run by the Eurosceptic millionaire Paul Sykes. Page 9

Deaf holidaymakers sue Butlin's
Butlin's faces mass legal action after it sent in security guards to evict nearly 60 deaf guests from their chalets and order them from one of its holiday camps. Page 7

FOREIGN NEWS
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Aide holds key to Clinton deal
The future of one of President Bill Clinton's aides is emerging as a vital issue in attempts to build a deal between the White House and Congress. Page 14

Anwar's video attack on PM
On secret videos, the Malaysian opposition leader, Anwar Ibrahim, accused the Prime Minister of using official projects to enrich friends and family. Page 16

BUSINESS NEWS
PAGES 18 – 23

History rewritten in UK figures
Economic history was rewritten yesterday with the release of national accounts showing the economy has performed better than was thought. Page 18

Ministers' single-currency battle
European finance ministers will join battle this weekend over who should represent the euro on the international stage, including in G7 and the IMF. Page 21

SPORTS NEWS
PAGES 24 – 30

Norwegians turn to Man City
Two Norwegian millionaires who originally planned to invest in Wimbledon Football Club are now interested in buying Manchester City. Page 28

F1 contenders neck and neck
Formula 1 title contenders Michael Schumacher and Mika Hakkinen were neck and neck yesterday – both confident of winning Sunday's Grand Prix. Page 30

FRIDAY REVIEW
20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

David Aaronovitch
'If the Austin were still in existence, then its next model would certainly be the Viagra, and we can confidently anticipate millennial cars with titles like the Ford Orgasm and the Chrysler Climax.' Page 4

Donald Macintyre
'Paddy Ashdown remains a radical force in British politics. He says necessary things which no minister, ground down by the intimidating burdens of office, would dare to say.' Page 3

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Cryptic crossword, section one, page 30

Lawrence inquiry chief slams police

BY KATHY MARKS

THE CHAIRMAN of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry made clear yesterday that he was horrified by the way that the black teenager's murder was investigated, and said he believed that racism was endemic within the police service.

In his strongest comments to date, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny also urged the Home Office and other bodies to assume that the concerns of the black community about discriminatory policing were well-founded. He was speaking on the opening day of the second part of the public inquiry, which aims to identify the lessons to be learnt from the investigation into Stephen's 1993 murder by a white gang. Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen, have claimed that police racism was a key factor in the failure to convict his killers.

Sir William said he did not accept that racism was limited to a few "bad apples" – the conclusion reached by Lord Scarman, who chaired the last inquiry into race and policing in 1981. "What we are looking at here is a collective failure of police working together. It is a collective failure that has to be addressed – not one individual here or there that has to be hauled over the coals – and a general discrimination, conscious or unconscious."

The public inquiry, sitting in Elephant and Castle, south London, heard submissions yesterday from representatives of the Home Office, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Police Superintendents' Association. In the public gallery were relatives of Michael Menson, a black musician who died of injuries after being found on fire in a London street, and of Ricky Reel, an Asian teenager who drowned in the Thames. The families of both victims claim that police failed to investigate the deaths properly because they discounted the possibility that they had been murdered by racists.

Intervening during evidence by Paul Pugh, the head of the Operational Policing and Policy Unit at the Home Office, Sir William said that the inquiry had exposed "an obvious crisis of confidence between the black community and the Metropolitan Police.

"Some say it has damaged race relations. I hope very much that this will not turn out to be the epitaph of this inquiry. But it might be good for the Home Office and everybody else involved to take on board the perceptions of the black community and assume it is right, rather than make excuses and assume it is wrong."

Sir William gave the example of recent Home Office research, which found that black people were eight times more likely than whites to be stopped and searched by police, but which concluded that there could be "demographic and sociological reasons" for the discrepancy. "'Stop and search' is an example of the ethos which it will be necessary to change if this inquiry is to create a watershed for the improvement of relations," he said.

He told Dan Crompton, a senior Inspectorate official, that if he had listened to evidence from the first part of the inquiry, he would have been "aghast".

The Bernstock Spiers collection, with the holiday theme *Peter Macdiarmid*

Fringe lifts fashion week

BY MELANIE RICKEY

LONDON FASHION Week kicked off earlier than expected yesterday with the fringe element providing the initial glamour and pizzazz.

The colourful Bernstock Spiers collection was inspired by an imaginary holiday in the Copa Cabana.

"The whole thing is about being on holiday, about being free. I imagine people lounging about and hanging out in these clothes," Thelma Spiers said afterwards.

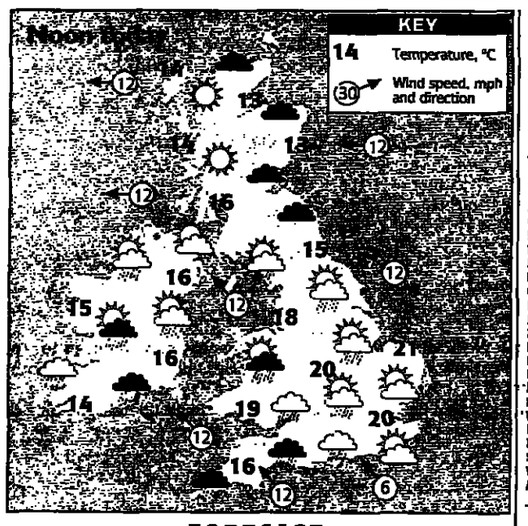
Indeed, the cotton smock dresses in paisley, the knee skirts with matching bikini tops, and the bold striped dresses certainly spelt holiday, while lightweight coats with matching wide leg pants were a chic variation on gentlemen's bed wear.

Bernstock Spiers would very much like to be part of the official London Fashion Week schedule. "Unless you're on the schedule it's hard to get the right people to your show," Paul Bernstock added.

Bernstock Spiers invited members of the audience to sing karaoke as their models stalked the catwalk.

London Fashion Week will hold 44 catwalk shows of the best of British fashion talent, in addition to which 142 exhibitors will be selling their spring and summer 1999 collections from tents outside the Natural History Museum.

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: Dull and misty in eastern Scotland and north-east England. Sunny in western Scotland. Northern Ireland, Wales and remaining parts of England will have a mix of sunshine and showery rain. The rain heavy and prolonged in Wales and many southern and central parts of England before the day is over.

Cent S & SE England, London, Midlands: Dull with fog patches then some sun but showery rain later. A light south-east wind. Max temp 20-23C (68-73F) cooler near coasts.

E Anglia, E England: Dull and foggy then brightening. Showery rain likely towards evening. A light south-east wind. Max temp 19-21C (66-70F) cooler near coasts.

S Wales, Channel Is, SW England: Showers and sunny spells, the showers prolonged and heavy at first. A light south-easterly wind. Max temp 17-20C (63-68F).

NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man, N Wales, N Ireland: Early mist and fog then some sunshine but an increasing threat of rain in the afternoon. A light easterly wind. Max temp 17-20C (63-68F).

Cent N & NE England: Dull and foggy, but brighter inland. A light easterly wind. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F) cooler coasts.

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Plenty of sunshine. A light easterly wind. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Dull and foggy, brightening inland. A light easterly wind. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F) cooler coasts.

OUTLOOK

Very unsettled over the weekend with sunshine and showers at best, but most parts will see some longer spells of rain. The start of next week will see little improvement in the weather with it remaining unsettled.

TRAVEL

Roads: West Midlands: M5 between J5 (B'ham) and J2 (Dudley). Resurfacing work - narrow lanes. Until 12th October. **West Yorkshire:** M1 between J43 (Stourton and J42 (Lofthouse Interchange) (M62). Roadworks with 50mph speed limit. Until 1st November. **Buckinghamshire:** M40 between junctions 1a (M25) & 3 (Wycombe East). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999. **Berkshire:** M4 between J8/9 (Maidenhead) and J7 (Slough). New road layout with a 50mph speed limit during flood relief work. Until 30th November. **Bristol:** M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001. **Suffolk:** A14. Various restrictions in place. Until 31st December 1999. **Cambridgeshire** A1 between Alconbury and Haddon. Construction, lane closures and contraflow. Until 31st December. **AA Roadwatch:** Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

LIGHTING UP

Belfast	7.16pm	to	7.16am
Birmingham	6.59pm	to	6.59am
Bristol	7.02pm	to	7.02am
Glasgow	7.09pm	to	7.09am
London	6.53pm	to	6.53am
Manchester	7.01pm	to	7.01am
Newcastle	6.58pm	to	6.59am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avonmouth	10.30	12.4	10.42	12.1
Cork	8.52	4.4	9.09	4.3
Devonport	8.59	5.3	9.13	5.3
Dover	2.06	6.3	2.19	6.4
Dun Laoghaire	2.41	3.9	2.56	3.8
Falmouth	8.30	5.1	8.44	5.1
Greenock	3.40	3.4	4.11	3.3
Harwich	3.03	3.9	3.14	3.9
Holyhead	1.24	5.3	1.42	5.2
Hull (Albert Dk)	9.36	8.3	9.54	8.1
Kings Lynn	9.40	6.4	9.58	6.1
Leith	6.03	5.2	6.19	5.1
Liverpool	2.18	8.9	2.35	8.8
Milford Haven	9.29	6.4	9.42	6.4
Newquay	8.21	6.5	8.35	6.4
Portland	10.00	1.8	10.11	1.7
Portsmouth	2.24	4.4	2.42	4.4
Pwllheli	11.19	4.5	11.33	4.5
Scarborough	7.19	5.5	7.42	5.3
Wick	2.28	3.3	2.45	3.2

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY
Today's readings

	NO_2	O_3
London	Moderate	Good
S England	Moderate	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Moderate	Good
N England	Moderate	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Moderate	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 06.51
Sun sets: 18.53
Moon rises: 11.27
Moon sets: 21.15
First Quarter: Sept 28

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Warmest: Crawley 23C (73F)
Coldest (day): Sumburgh 12C (54F)
Wettest: Cardiff 0.12 ins
Sunniest: Hythe 10.9 hrs

For 24hrs to 2pm Thursday

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max °C	°F
Aberdeen	0	0	14	57
Anglesey	9.4	0	20	68
Aviemore	9.5	0	17	63
Belfast	3.0	0	17	63
Birmingham	6.9	0	20	68
Bournemouth	10.7	0	21	70
Bristol	8.3	0	22	72
Buxton	5.3	0	16	61
Cardiff	-	0	22	72
Clacton	10.5	0	16	61
Cromer	4.3	0	16	61
Edinburgh	6.0	0	18	64
Exmouth	8.2	0	18	64
Fishguard	9.2	0	20	68
Folkestone	10.3	0	19	66
Glasgow	3.7	0.01	16	61
Hastings	10.6	0	20	68
Hove	9.0	0	-	-
Isle-of-wight	9.2	0.01	19	66
Jersey	10.3	0	22	72
Kendal	4.6	0	18	64
Leeds	1.0	0	18	64
Lerwick	0	0.01	12	54
Littlehampton	9.9	0	22	72
London	8.2	0	21	70
Lowestoft	8.3	0	18	64
Manchester	7.9	0	19	66
Margate	10.4	0	19	66
Morecambe	8.4	0	18	64
Newcastle	0.3	0	16	61
Norwich	6.8	0	18	64
Oxford	8.4	0	22	72
Ross-on-wye	8.2	0	21	70
Salcombe	4.9	0	18	64
Scarborough	0	0	15	59
Shrewsbury	7.1	0	19	66
Southend	10.4	0.01	17	63
Stornoway	0.1	0.01	14	57
Swanage	7.9	0	18	64
Tenby	8.5	0	18	64
Torquay	4.5	0	20	68
Weston-s-mare	9.5	0	22	72
Weymouth	8.7	0	18	64

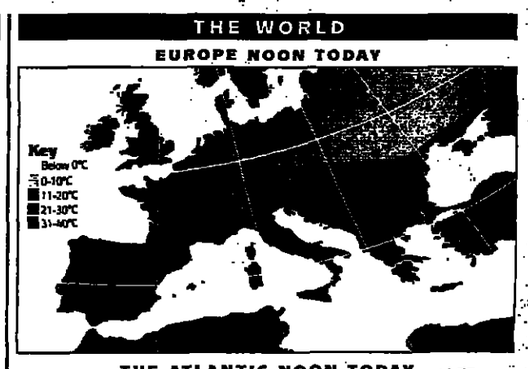
24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Wed'day: Information by PA WeatherCentre

RAIN OR SHINE

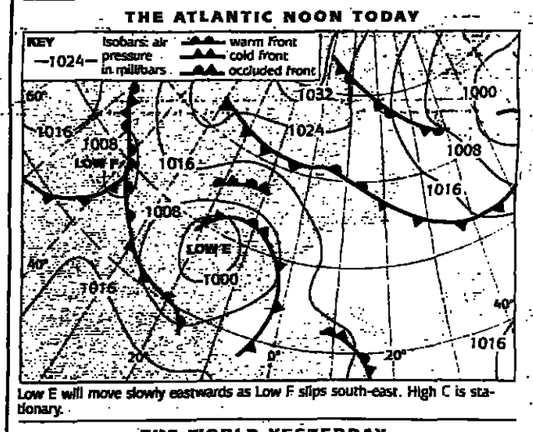
THE PEOPLE of Yorkshire felt under a cloud yesterday as gloomy weather rolled in from the North Sea to sit over Leeds and Sheffield while most of the country bathed in warm sunshine. One Leeds resident even phoned the Meteorological office in London to complain at the injustice of enduring a cool 15 degrees centigrade while neighbouring Lancashire enjoyed a day of bright sunshine.

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY



THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY



Low E will move slowly eastwards as Low F slips south-east. High C is stationary.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

c,cloudy; d,drizzle; f,fair; fg,fog; h,hail; hz,hazy; m,mist; r,rain; s,sunny; sh,showers; sl,sleet; sn,snow; ss,sandstorm; th,thunder. Most recent available figure noon local time.

		°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F
Adelaide	f	13	55	Chicago	s	18	64	La Paz	c	13	55	Prague	s	16	61
Algiers	c	25	77	Christchurch	f	17	63	Lagos	f	28	82	Quebec	c	11	52
Alicante	s	25	77	Cologne	s	20	68	Lima	c	18	64	Reykjavik	c	11	52
Amsterdam	s	18	64	Copenhagen	c	14	57	Lisbon	c	21	70	Rhodes	s	24	75
Anchorage	r	11	52	Corfu	f	24	75	Los Angeles	f	22	72	Rio de Janeiro	c	23	73
Ankara	c	17	63	Crete	f	24	75	Madrid	c	15	59	Riyadh	s	40	104
Athens	c	25	77	Dakar	f	30	86	Majorca	c	26	79	Rome	c	24	75
Atlanta	c	28	82	Dallas	c	29	84	Malaga	s	26	79	San Fran	c	19	66
Auckland	c	14	57	Darwin	c	30	86	Malta	c	21	70	Santiago	s	18	64
Bahrain	s	42	108	Dubai	s	38	100	Manila	r	32	90	Seoul	c	22	72
Bangkok	c	30	86	Edmonton	c	17	63	Mecca	s	38	100	Seychelles	f	29	84
Barbados	f	29	84	Faro	c	21	70	Melbourne	c	13	55	Shanghai	c	26	79
Barcelona	c	21	70	Florence	s	25	77	Mexico City	f	21	70	Singapore	c	29	84
Beirut	f	27	81	Frankfurt	s	17	63	Miami	c	31	88	St Petersburg	c	11	52
Belgrade	f	20	68	Funchal	f	25	77	Milan	s	24	75	Stockholm	f	17	63
Berlin	f	16	61	Geneva	c	15	59	Mombasa	f	28	82	Sydney	c	17	63
Bermuda	c	29	84	Gibraltar	f	22	72	Montreal	f	13	55	T'aipei	f	29	84
Biarritz	f	24	75	Hanoi	c	31	88	Moscow	c	12	54	Tel Aviv	f	29	84
Bogota	r	16	61	Harare	f	26	79	Munich	s	15	59	Tenerife	c	24	75
Bombay	f	32	90	Helsinki	f	15	59	Nairobi	c	21	70	Tokyo	sh	27	81
Bordeaux	c	21	70	Hong Kong	f	31	88	Naples	c	23	73	Toronto	f	14	57
Boston	s	16	61	Honolulu	f	30	86	Nassau	s	31	88	Tunis	c	24	75
Brisbane	c	23	73	Istanbul	f	21	70	New Delhi	th	31	88	Ulan Ude	s	10	50
Brussels	s	20	68	Jakarta	c	27	81	New Orleans	s	31	88	Valencia	s	25	77
Bucharest	c	19	66	Jeddah	s	35	95	New York	s	17	63	Vancouver	c	17	63
Budapest	s	19	66	Jerusalem	c	24	75	Nice	c	24	75	Venice	s	22	72
Buenos Aires	c	18	64	Johannesburg	s	27	81	Nicosia	f	28	82	Vienna	s	17	63
Cairo	c	28	82	Karachi	f	35	95	Oslo	c	14	57	Warsaw	f	16	61
Calgary	c	20	68	Kathmandu	f	23	73	Paris	f	21	70	Washington	s	20	68
Cape Town	c	16	61	Kiev	c	17	63	Peking	s	24	75	Wellington	c	14	57
Caracas	c	32	90	Kingston	c	33	91	Perth	c	19	66	Zagreb	s	19	66
Casablanca	f	24	75	Kuala Lumpur	c	31	88	Port Stanley	s	11	52	Zurich	m	14	57

هكذا من الأصل

Senior detective risked officers for bribe from Britain's top drug baron

BY JONATHAN FOSTER

THINGS BEGAN to go wrong for the drugs surveillance operation in the Liverpool 8 ghetto when the two old steel containers were drenched in petrol and set on fire. Someone had told the dealers that inside the containers was a front-line police observation post housing five "bizzies".

The same fate befell the camera, recording deals from an empty upstairs flat through a tiny aperture drilled in a window sealed up with breeze blocks. Just to be sure, the dealers torched the flat, terrifying the old dear next door.

The dealers were working with a bent cop, someone with advance knowledge of police operations who had by 1988 opened a hot line to the drug sellers around Granby Street. Down the road at Admiral Street police station, detectives began to suspect betrayal.

Only a senior officer informed of all drugs policing could be so well-briefed about undercover operations. The name of the then deputy head of the Merseyside drugs squad, Elmore "Elly" Davies, was pencilled in the log of detectives under suspicion.

Yesterday, he was convicted of disclosing information to pervert the course of justice. A detective chief inspector, with 30 years' service and a son in the force, Davies is the most senior British police officer jailed for corruption in modern times. He sold the inside line on an investigation to an organised crime syndicate. He tried to get the son of an alleged drugs baron off a firearms charge. He was to be paid £20,000.

The trial dealt only with Davies's final act of corruption. There was no evidence about abortive exercises around dismal Granby Street during the 1980s, or the two years from 1990 when Davies was a chief of detectives in the Turks and Caicos Islands, on the Caribbean mainline for drug runs to Florida.

What turned Davies crooked was in part a mix of brooding hubris and insecurity. In the witness box, his knuckle-size gold and ebony signet ring catching the light, he made awkward, embarrassing jokes. He agreed he had been passed over twice for promotion to superintendent and was too old for the sort of force Merseyside was becoming, too down-to-earth, too gold-chained Elly-the-lad.

Then he was asked about a bugged chat in his sitting room, when he told Michael Ahearne, his friend Warrior from the *Gladiators* TV show – who was also jailed, with another associate, Tony Bray – that he was "very, very pissed off". He replied it was just a throw-away line, "a load of bullshit".

When he was arrested, on 13 March last year, Davies was a chief inspector on £36,000 a year. Aged 50, proud, garrulous, twice-divorced, hard-living and a Freemason, he ran CID in Tuebrook division, Liverpool, where crimes are committed at the rate of one an hour.

He had high hopes that a back "injury" would retire him soon from the force "on a nice pension – £500 a week in my hand just for sitting on my extremely fat arse". He reckoned he could work as a security consultant on cruise liners - "£500 a week and all your keep and ale".

Davies was greedy for more money when, in July 1996, who should get in touch from exile in the Netherlands but Curtis Francis Warren, the country's 401st richest person, through his property holdings, according to the *Sunday Times* "Rich List", and the most successful British criminal ever captured.

Warren was worth £180m, garnered from drugs dealing and smuggling on a grand scale, who needed a favour from a well-placed policeman. The son of a "business associate" was in trouble after shooting at a police officer – could Elly fix it for an appropriate payment? Davies agreed.

Warren was riding his luck. He stood trial in 1992 charged with importing 18 lead ingots concealing a ton of cocaine, worth £260m. After being acquitted on a technicality, he told Customs officers as he left the court: "I'm just off now to spend my £87m and you can't touch me."

Despite his brush with the courts, he resumed his transatlantic trade. "He was greedy," a Customs man said. "And there are no escape clauses in Colombian contracts. If they want you to carry on working for them, it's prudent not to quit."

Warren assumed Customs officers were watching him, so he moved his cocaine concession to the Netherlands, but he was caught and last year began a 12-year jail term after bungling the import of 317kg of cocaine, 67kg of heroin, and 1.76 tonnes of cannabis.

He was caught after Customs told Dutch police all about the semi-literate Scouser who had moved in to the mansion at 53 Hoofdstraat in Sassenheim. The Dutch listened to Warren's phone calls. Among the conversations were discussions about an attempted murder inquiry involving Philip Glennon, scion of a notorious Liverpool crime family who had amassed a fortune from drug-running.

Warren's closest business associates included Philip "Philly" Glennon senior, father of Warren's lover, Stephanie, and chairman of his local Neighbourhood Watch. Each week he buys at least £25 of lottery tickets – driving to the newsagent in his Mercedes.

Glennon junior's machismo had got the better of him on 14 July 1996. He quarrelled in the Venue nightclub, with members of the rival Ungi family and shot at the bouncer who threw him out, then fired at the constable who pursued him. The bouncer was allegedly paid £50,000 from Glennon. Next day, he retracted his statement.

That left the officer's evidence and the gun. The family turned to Warren and Warren turned to Elly Davies. The incident had taken place on Davies's patch. Phone calls collected by the Dutch made clear that the detective chief inspector was only too keen to help. He could get information on anything Warren wanted. Elly was "made up" (delighted).

While the Dutch had been bugging Warren, suspicions about Davies were growing in the Merseyside police and, in December 1996, they arranged for "friends" from another law enforcement agency to install a miniature microphone in Davies's sitting room. Merseyside police had justification for cocking an electronic ear to his sitting room. The microphone picked up Davies plotting to have the attempted murder investigation "boxed off". Davies disclosed to Warrior, and other Warren emissaries, forensic information, warnings about bugged telephones, and strategies to get Glennon junior bail.

Warren was going to meet Davies in North Wales, but there was a delay and then Warren got arrested. Davies was heard on the secret bug saying if the appointment had been kept, that Warren "wouldn't be in prison in Holland. I would have said to him, 'Don't talk on the phone and don't go back to Holland'. I bet he would have paid £50,000 for that."

Elmore Davies during his stint in the Turks and Caicos Islands. His agreement to help drugs baron Curtis Warren (right) led to jail terms for himself, Michael Ahearne (far right) and Tony Bray (top)

Seven forces being investigated

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

INQUIRIES INTO allegations of police corruption are under way in at least seven forces:

Metropolitan Police
The largest anti-corruption drive for decades: 47 officers have been suspended and 10 serving and former officers charged in connection with drug and fraud allegations. Most of the officers involved come from the former South East Regional Crime Squad and the Flying Squad, the unit that tracks armed robbers.

Merseyside
Detective Chief Inspector Anthony Doyle, 48, a former deputy head of the Merseyside Drug Squad, has been charged under the Prevention of Corruption Act. In a separate investigation Detective Inspector Ian Kemble was suspended this month.

Cleveland Police
Nearly 300 complaints have been made against 39 Cleveland police officers. The investigation focuses on Middlesbrough CID, whose former head Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon – who shot to fame with "zero tolerance" – is one of eight officers suspended. Allegations involve trading drugs for information from criminals and threatening suspects. In a second inquiry four officers are being investigated over alleged links with suspected drug smuggling.

West Midlands
Nine officers from the Drugs Squad have been disciplined – including three dismissals – after allegations that included the theft of drugs and money from informants and suspects. Out of the operation came a secondary inquiry which resulted in a detective sergeant resigning. A separate inquiry into allegations that officers were fabricating "secondary detections" has led to five officers facing disciplinary action and two being dismissed. In another inquiry a chief superintendent is awaiting trial on charges of theft.

South Yorkshire
Eleven police officers and two civilians have been suspended after an inquiry into allegations of fraud over the Government's hand-gun compensation scheme.

Kent
A former detective constable has pleaded guilty to charges of misconduct in connection with providing confidential information to criminals.

Gwent
Frank Wilkinson, Chief Constable of Gwent, was suspended after allegations were made surrounding the issue of a speeding ticket to a prominent councillor and the award of contracts.

Defendant in fakes case sacks entire legal team

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

JOHN DREWE, accused of masterminding an elaborate art fraud, sacked his defence team yesterday. He told his barristers and solicitors that he would be conducting his own defence.

Mr Drewe, said to take an "intellectual delight in fooling people", is alleged to have organised a complex 10-year modern art fraud that earned him a great deal of money.

Southwark Crown Court was told earlier this week that Drewe, 50, created histories for non-existent works by artists including Marc Chagall, Graham Sutherland and Ben Nicholson, then paid a struggling painter to create them.

Judge Geoffrey Rivlin said: "Drewe has decided to dispense with the services of his entire legal team and conduct the case on his own. That is something he is fully entitled in law to do.

"I have been most anxious to be sure in my own mind that Drewe fully understands the ramifications, problems and possible difficulties of him conducting the case on his own."

While Drewe has dispensed with the services of Anthony Glass QC, he may occasionally be assisted by a legal adviser "if from time to time it becomes apparent he is not au fait with all the principles of criminal procedure and criminal evidence," said Judge Rivlin.

Drewe, from Reigate, Surrey, is said to have altered the archives of leading museums and galleries, including the Tate, where he created the histories for non-existent paintings. He also wrote to the families of some of the artists for more information.

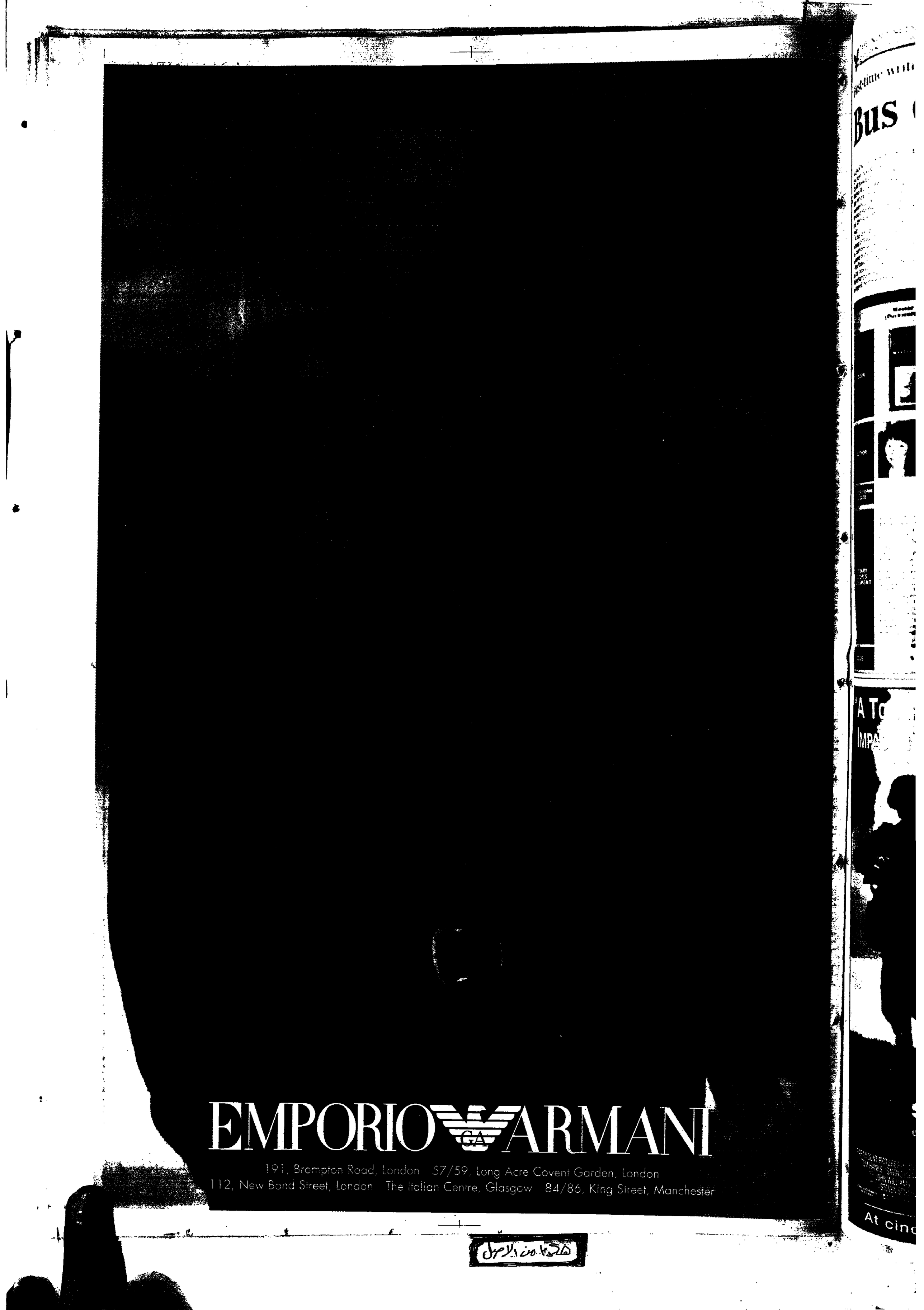
When the hearing continued, John Bevan QC, for the prosecution, told the court that one dealer, who was sold a fake De Stahl by Drewe, was given four sketches, allegedly by Graham Sutherland, as compensation. It transpired that the Sutherlands were also fakes.

Mr Bevan said Drewe invented a bogus history for the Sutherlands to convince Whitford Fine Arts in London that they were genuine. He said Drewe had told the gallery that the sketches were rough drafts for the 70ft tapestry of Christ that Sutherland designed for Coventry Cathedral.

Drewe said that the sketches had been sold in 1976 by an Oxford priory and were now being sold by two private collectors. He also created a bogus catalogue to show that they had been part of a Sutherland exhibition held in 1967.

Drewe and Daniel Stoakes, 52, of Exeter, Devon, deny conspiring with John Myatt and others to defraud between January 1986 and April 1996. Drewe also denies charges of forgery, theft, and false accounting. The jury has been told that Myatt, 53, from Stafford, has admitted his involvement.

The trial continues.


EMPORIO ARMANI
191, Brompton Road, London 57/59, Long Acre Covent Garden, London
112, New Bond Street, London The Italian Centre, Glasgow 84/86, King Street, Manchester

هكذا من الاصل

First-time writer gives established novelists run for their money in big literary prize

Bus driver up for Booker

BY DAVID LISTER
Art News Editor

A LONDON BUS driver had his first novel shortlisted for the £20,000 Booker Prize yesterday. Magnus Mills, 44, was unavailable for comment, except to passengers on the 159 bus from Brixton to Streatham, which he was driving when the news broke.

A bus driver for 12 years earning £5.03 an hour, he spent his twenties as an itinerant labourer, living in a caravan or a Ford Transit van. Although he did an economics degree at Wolverhampton Polytechnic, he enjoyed the freedom of travelling and spending time in Scotland as a farm worker. The inspiration for his book, *The Restraint Of Beasts*, comes from farm labourers.

Eventually he moved to London with his wife, Sue. He said: "She wanted to come down south, so I said we would go to London and I'd get a job as a bus driver. I wrote the novel between shifts." Film rights have already been sold.

Mr Mills, who received a £10,000 advance for *The Restraint Of Beasts*, is joined by Beryl Bainbridge.

With *Master Georgie* she picks up her fifth shortlist selection – the highest number for any author without a win. Ian McEwan, who has been nominated twice before, has been given odds of 6-4 for *Amsterdam*, just ahead of Ms Bainbridge, with odds of 5-2.

Also on the list are Julian Barnes' *England, England*, Martin Booth's *The Industry Of Souls* and Patrick McCabe's *Breakfast On Pluto*.

The five judges, who were expected to have read 125 nominated books, were locked in a room at a central London gentleman's club, the Savile Club, for more than four hours yesterday while they discussed the shortlist.

Lord Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, is chairing the panel. He is joined by Nigella Lawson and Miriam Gross, the journalists, Penelope Fitzgerald, the novelist, and Professor Valentine Cunningham, the broadcaster and literature lecturer. Lord Hurd said: "We have had a strenuous, good-humoured session. Five very different judges from five very different backgrounds and we have arrived at a talented shortlist with a lot of excitement in it. There's no obvious front-runner, nothing guaranteed to win."

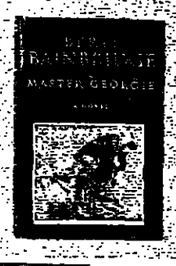
Graham Sharpe, of William Hill, said: "We're going to see a lot of money going on Beryl Bainbridge as a sympathy vote because of all her nominations, but I think the judges will come down on the side of Ian McEwan."

The shortlisted authors receive £1,000 and generally benefit from a boost in sales with their Booker success. Arundhati Roy – last year's winner and another first-time novelist – saw sales of her book *The God Of Small Things* double after her victory.

The final decision for this year's 30th Booker Prize will be taken on October 27 when the judges meet again. The results will be announced at a dinner in Guildhall, London.

Leading article, Review, page 3.

THE BOOKER SHORT LIST

	Master Georgie (Duckworth, £14.99)	England, England (Cape, £15.99)	The Industry Of Souls (Dewi Lewis Publishing, £6.99)	Breakfast on Pluto (Picador, £15.99)	Amsterdam (Cape, £14.99)	The Restraint of Beasts (Flamingo, £9.99)
BOOK						
AUTHOR	 **Beryl Bainbridge** 63 lives: London when not writing: loves to paint	 **Julian Barnes** 42 lives: London when not writing: travelling to France	 **Martin Booth** 44 lives: Taunton when not writing: broadcasting on wildlife	 **Patrick McCabe** 43 lives: Sligo, Ireland when not writing: sings in pubs and clubs	 **Ian McEwan** 44 lives: Oxford when not writing: playing tennis	 **Magnus Mills** 44 lives: Brixton, London when not writing: bus driving, gardening.
BOOKER FORM TO DATE	shortlisted four times	shortlisted once	none	shortlisted once	shortlisted twice	none
LITERARY EDITOR'S ASSESSMENT	A fourth shortlisting for the nearly-woman of the Booker, *two years after her* Titanic novel, Every Man for Himself. Typically terse and vivid, this account of the Crimean War through the eyes of a geologist, a *photographer and a girl* from the Liverpool backstreets shows her ability to illuminate history in lightning-flashes. Hilary Mantel, in the Independent, *acclaimed a* "blackly *funny* and fiercely intelligent" book whose battles scenes are perhaps "the most powerful Bainbridge has ever imagined".	In his first novel for eight years, Barnes is shortlisted *for the first time since his* debut, Flaubert's Parrot in 1984. England,England satirically invents a giant theme-park on the Isle of Wight which gathers all the *attractions of Olde England* at the behest of a corrupt tycoon. In the Independent, Valentine Cunningham – one of the Booker judges – admired the book's "essayistic enticements" but also its "regular pleasures of narrative". He predicted it would "delight Barnes's huge European following".	The yearly small-press outsider comes this time from a Stockport-based publisher which began with photography books before moving on to launch a tiny fiction list. The very experienced Martin Booth, a Far East expert and author of novels such as Hiroshima Joe as well as a history of opium, moves to Russia with this tale of a Briton arrested for spying in the Stalin era. Abandoned in the Gulag and released into obscurity, he must revisit his traumatic past when glasnost arrives.	McCabe, whose novel The Butcher Boy was turned into a widely-praised film after its Booker shortlisting in 1992, here gives an unexpected spin to the over-written troubles in Northern Ireland. Transvestite outcast "Pussy" Braden learns to survive among the macho hard men of his Ulster town and then emigrates to become a rent-boy in Seventies London, where the violence he has spurned still tracks him down. An inventive, touching and slyly comic take.	Another repeat Booker contender who has never quite snatched the gold. Lighter in tone than much of his previous fiction, this compact novella involves an intrigue among the metropolitan elite that embroils an editor, a composer and a cabinet minister in a plot that wavers between comedy and pathos. Interviewing McEwan for the Independent, Robert Hanks *missed the author's* trademark "flashgun moments" but enjoyed its "light, brittle satire" as a "decisve break with the past".	Behind the hype about the bus-driving blockbuster there lies a cool and stylish parable about the abuse of power and the way ordinary people connive in their own destruction. Ostensibly about two feckless Scots fencing contractors whose jobs grow ever more sinister and murderous, Mills's uncanny debut arguably has more in common with early Ian McEwan than does Amsterdam. In the Independent, Kim Newman hailed "a work of rare originality and power" that "contains multitudes of meanings".
ODDS	5/2	4/1	8/1	9/2	6/4 favourite	10/1

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 25 September 1998

Official review of CS spray ordered

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A REVIEW into the safety of the CS spray used by British police forces was ordered yesterday. An independent panel of experts will investigate the safety of the controversial spray, which is used to quell aggressive suspects.

The review was ordered by the Department of Health and will be carried out by two committees on toxicity and mutagenicity.

The spray was introduced in 1996, but has been the subject of increasing public concern and criticism from judges over its inappropriate use. It has replaced the truncheon as the first line of defence for the police even though it was introduced as a weapon for use only in extreme circumstances.

More than 100,000 beat officers have been issued with canisters of CS spray and civil liberties groups and health experts have pointed to dozens of cases in which it has been used when the threat to officers' safety has been negligible or non-existent.

Earlier this week an investigation was launched after reports that police sprayed a 76-year-old man in the face as he was being evicted from his home.

There were also reports this month that several innocent bystanders, including a four-year-old girl, were caught by the spray, which can cause skin blistering and sore eyes.

The chairman of the Police Complaints Authorities recently urged officers not to use it just to make arrests easier and warned of an impending backlash against its use.

The Association of Chief Police Officers said it supported the Government's decision to review the safety of the spray.

John Giffard, Chief Constable of Staffordshire and chairman of Acpo's self-defence arrest and restraint committee, said an independent review was "timely", but added that CS was safer than baton or a firearm. "There has been a certain amount of mis-information on the subject of CS use recently and this will help establish the facts more clearly.

"We believe that the proper use of CS spray poses no long term health risks ... and since 1996 no evidence has emerged to support the propositions that the properly controlled use of CS has long-term health problems. I am convinced that there are people alive today who would have died had CS not been available as an alternative to batons and firearms."

But a spokesman for the Department of Health said: "We're concerned not so much with the use to which the spray is put, but its likely medical and health effects on anyone who receives it."

Alun Michael, the Home Office minister, said the decision to review the spray's safety was a positive move, but insisted it was still an effective self-defence tool for police officers.

"CS spray has been scientifically tested to a level similar to that which would be required for a new pharmaceutical drug, and there is no evidence that it poses any significant threat to human health," he said. "Scrutiny by the committees on toxicity and mutagenicity will provide an independent review of the safety of CS."

It is the solvent used to propel the CS that causes irritation, rather than the CS itself.

A Webley revolver, part of a Republican arms cache discoverd by Omagh bomb investigators yesterday near Inniskeen. The find, including mortar parts, was close to where Gardai found a cache on Wednesda *Reuters*

Released sex attacker struck again

A JUDGE called for an inquiry yesterday after it emerged that a sex offender was set free, despite a court recommending he should be deported.

Rashid Musa, 22, raped a woman cleaner and a 16-year-old schoolboy within a 24-hour period and police believe there are more victims who have been afraid to come forward.

Musa, the Old Bailey was told, had fallen through the deportation net because of confusion about his nationality and because of a lack of resources.

Judge David Radford warned him he faced a life sentence after being found guilty of two rape charges, one charge of attempted rape and two offences of stealing.

The court was told Musa arrived in Britain in 1992 from Brazil. He had a ticket to Kenya but on his arrival at Heathrow, claimed to be Somali and asked for asylum. In July 1994, he committed a serious sexual offence on a 15-year-old girl and was sentenced to 18 months' youth custody in January 1995.

In December 1995, a judge at the Inner London Crown Court recommended Musa be deported after serving an 18-month sentence for a burglary offence. He was served with deportation papers in Doncaster prison on June 18, 1997, but was released on June 23 after his lawyers served the Home Office with a writ saying that he would appeal and that he was being wrongly detained.

The judge was told that the appeal was dismissed by 16 October 1997 and the deportation order could have been implemented by 20 November 1997. But he was not sought, detained or deported.

By February, he attacked the 46-year-old woman cleaner in a central London office block. The next day, he raped the schoolboy in a train lavatory.

Judge Radford said: "Whilst he was at liberty, these offences were committed. I certainly want to know why that was – why there were delays in implementing these matters.

"I am considering whether it is my public duty to pass a life sentence in this case."

He remanded Musa in custody and adjourned the case until November 6.

Scotland Yard appealed for other victims to come forward. Det Insp Jim Dickie said: "It is my belief these were not isolated offences."

The Home Office said the immigration minister had ordered an urgent report on the case from the Immigration Service.

هكذا من الاصل

Butlin's sued by evicted deaf guests

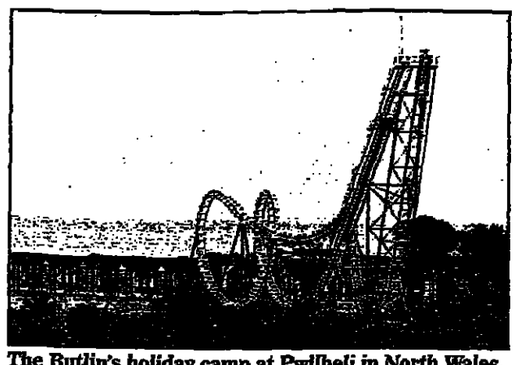
BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

BUTLIN'S FACES mass legal action after it sent in security guards to evict nearly 60 deaf guests from their chalets and order them from one of its holiday camps. In a legal action by 28 of the guests, it is alleged that security officers entered chalets, pulling out electricity fuses and cutting off heating and water supplies at the Butlin's camp at Pwllheli, North Wales.

Butlin's decided to order out the deaf guests after a disturbance in one of the camp's nightclubs on New Year's Eve prompted complaints from other holidaymakers. It was later discovered that a chalet being used by deaf guests had been seriously vandalised.

But the litigants said they had booked separately in small groups and were not linked to those involved in the disturbances, other than by virtue of their deafness. Carl Miller, one of the 58 evicted, said: "I asked the Butlin's management if they would have thrown every black person off the camp because of the actions of one or two. I was sickened by their attitude.

"For a holiday company which advertises that it is so disability-friendly, their lack of deaf awareness and disgraceful attitude is totally appalling."



The Butlin's holiday camp at Pwllheli in North Wales, where 58 deaf guests were evicted by security guards

Parties of deaf people had travelled to the holiday camp f from Hampshire, Middlesex, Leicester, Oxfordshire, the West Midlands and Surrey. Ironically, they said they opted to go to Butlin's because it had acquired a reputation for being considerate to people with disabilities.

Another of the deaf litigants, Kathryn Dolby, an administrative assistant with Walsall council, said she had enjoyed the New Year's Eve celebrations with her husband, Trevor, but woke up the next morning to the news that they were being made to leave. "The security came into the chalet and removed the electricity fuse. We had no choice but to leave," she said. "We felt angry and hurt."

Mrs Dolby said they had not even been in the Starbar nightclub at the time of the disturbance. "We don't know the people involved, or where they come from. We have never even met them," she said.

Also "upset and confused" was deaf design engineer, Michael Brickliffe. He said: "All the security guards said was 'Out! Out! Out! All Deaf Out!' They ignored us when we asked for an explanation."

Solicitors Greene Deavin, of Leicester, are bringing the legal action against Butlin's, under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The claimants seek damages for breach of contract and discrimination as well as compensation for distress, discomfort and inconvenience.

James Strachan, chief executive of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, which is backing the legal claim, said the "blatant discrimination" demonstrated the need for the Government to set up a statutory body to enforce the Act.

But Butlin's said last night its actions had not been discriminatory. In a statement, it said: "Our security department received reports that a group of male and female deaf people, consisting of families from different parts of the country, were responsible for harassing other holidaymakers on New Year's Eve. This took the form of the sexual harassment of female guests, physical assaults and aggressiveness brought on by excess consumption of alcohol."

It accepted that the deaf people had made separate bookings but added: "It was clear during their stay that they constituted one large group who had planned to meet at the centre."

Kathryn Dolby, who is suing Butlin's after she and her husband were forced out of their holiday chalet *Sean Paget*

Outcry over bonus pay for teachers

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

GOLDEN HELLOS and goodbyes for skilled teachers at failing schools were proposed by the Government yesterday.

Good teachers who agreed to teach in schools declared failing by inspectors should receive bonuses. And those who soldier on in the worst schools but do not turn them round should get "termination bonuses" when schools have to close.

Heads and teachers who turn round difficult schools might also receive bonuses and teachers of subjects such as maths and science, where recruitment is difficult, should be considered for golden hellos.

Teachers reacted angrily to the Department for Education's evidence to the School-teachers' Pay Review Body, which marks a dramatic shift in the way the 438,000-strong profession is rewarded. Union leaders said the measures would worsen recruitment.

In the document, the department emphasises that extra pay for the best teachers rather than the traditional across-the-board rises were the way to solve the teaching recruitment crisis. This would be explained further in a Green Paper on the profession to be published later this year, but yesterday's document makes clear the Government's determination to tie pay to performance and to pay teachers partly by results.

It says: "The Government intends to look at sophisticated methods of assessment linked to performance and standards and the meeting of teachers' personal targets, including those related to pupil performance.

"It is important that the arrangements should reward teachers doing a good job in difficult schools as well as in successful schools."

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, argues that "teachers and head teachers are at the heart of the drive to raise standards", but suggests that any addition to the £11bn teachers' pay bill must be no more than the rate of inflation. He says that the award should not be phased as in recent years.

He is concerned particularly about the shortage of primary head teachers; the need to recruit more maths and science staff in secondary schools; the difficulty of attracting good teachers to bad schools; and recruitment in London.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said ministers should go back to the drawing board; special payments introduced for teachers in difficult schools had been introduced in 1974, then frozen because they did not work, and recently abolished.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said teachers would be shocked: "The Government gave a 34 per cent increase the Chief Inspector of Schools, a man who has no impact on the day-to-day education of children."

Chef murdered son's girlfriend

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A MAN who lured his son's teenage girlfriend to a towpath where he sexually assaulted her and then cut her throat, has been jailed for life.

Stephen Hughes tricked Rachel Barraclough into going to the riverside on the pretext that she was to meet his son, Carl, with whom she had argued the week before. When the 18-year-old arrived he murdered her with a three-inch knife and dumped her body.

Mr Justice Holland told Leeds Crown Court yesterday that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, would decide how long Hughes should stay in jail. He told Hughes: "The verdict of the jury tells me, if I may say so, on strong evidence, that you are the person responsible for that wicked, wicked crime."

The court heard that Hughes, a hotel breakfast chef from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, had telephoned Miss Barraclough to arrange the meeting in September last year.

The "gentle, caring girl who tried to please everyone" and was a regular churchgoer had been going out with Hughes's son Carl, 22, for eight months. Recently they had had a violent argument about Carl seeing another woman.

Miss Barraclough, from Barnsley, South Yorkshire, had forgiven her boyfriend when she received Hughes's phone call and then caught a bus to Wakefield. The court heard that close-circuit television pictures showed her at the city's bus station with Hughes as they walked off in the direction of the towpath. Two hours later the same cameras showed him walking back alone.

As the verdict was read out, Hughes's wife Irene collapsed and paramedics were called.

Ashdown warning to Blair over PR

LIBERALS

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

PADDY ASHDOWN warned Tony Blair yesterday that he would go down in history as a "control freak" rather than a radical reformer if he failed to change the voting system for elections to the House of Commons.

However, the Liberal Democrats would have to compromise on their demand for full-scale proportional representation, he told his party's conference in Brighton.

He urged the party to "keep its nerve" rather than throw away "the best chance this century of winning fair votes for Westminster".

Mr Ashdown increased the pressure on Mr Blair to come out in favour of electoral reform, warning that his dream of realigning British politics through closer co-operation between Labour and the Lib Dems would lie in ruins unless he did so.

The Lib Dem leader assured his party that liberal values were now "the dominant agenda of ideas" in Britain. But the party had to have self-confidence and take the risks necessary to win "the great prize" of electoral reform.

Although ministers later dismissed Mr Ashdown's "empty rhetoric," his speech highlighted the acute dilemma facing Mr Blair over next month's report by a commission on voting reform, chaired by Lord Jenkins, a Liberal Democrat.

It is expected to propose that about 500 MPs should be elected under the alternative vote system, allowing people to list candidates in their order of preference, "topped-up" by a further 100 chosen to reflect each party's share of the vote in each region.

Mr Ashdown told the Prime Minister bluntly that his decision on the report would determine whether he was a "pluralist or a control freak".

"Your language tells me you're the first. But too many of your Government's actions tell me you're the second," Mr Ashdown said.

"Your Government could become potentially a historic one. But only if it lets go a little, if it relaxes a little, if it tolerates dissent a little, if it welcomes diversity a little, and if it interferes a little less."

Hinting that Lib-Lab co-operation on the joint cabinet committee on constitutional reform would be halted if Mr Blair fails to act on the Jenkins report, he said Mr Blair's decision "will determine the future course of our work together, and it will tell us what kind of country you want Britain to be".

The Lib Dem leader also warned, as disclosed in *The Independent* yesterday, that the co-operation would be jeopardised if the Government failed to bring in legislation on freedom of information in the next session of Parliament.

In an attempt to placate Lib Dem activists who believe that the party has moved too close to Labour, Mr Ashdown accused the Government of bringing in a "nanny state" through actions such as banning beef on the bone and telling parents what time their children should go to bed.

He said there was an "extraordinary paradox" at the heart of a government which wanted to devolve power, but also control it from the centre. Although it had brought in legislation such as devolution for Scotland, Labour "found it impossible to make the mental leap" to go with it.

Mr Ashdown warned that Labour's "arrogance" in Scotland, where its party took its orders from its London headquarters, would play into the hands of the "separatists".

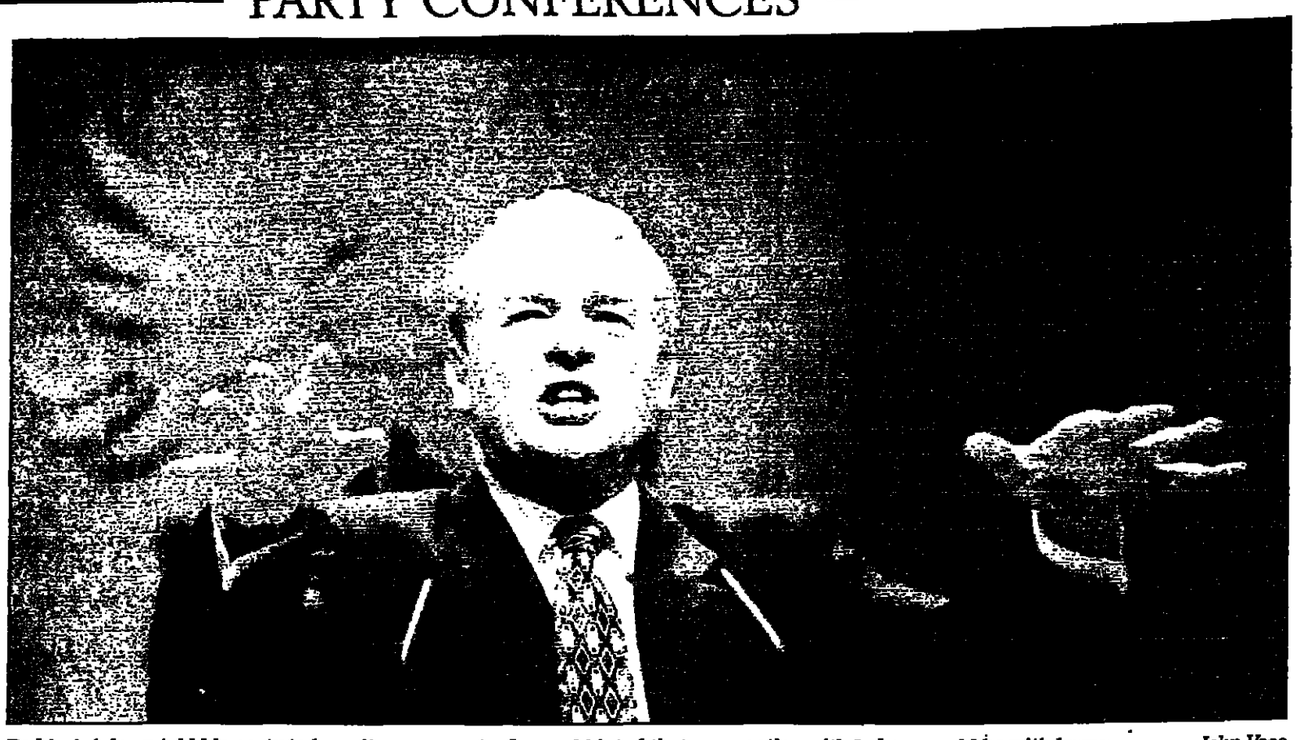
He dismissed the idea that the Lib Dems, who could hold the balance of power in the Scottish Parliament after its first elections next May, would threaten to link up with the SNP in order to put pressure on Mr Blair to deliver PR.

"The last thing Liberal Democrats want is for Scotland to separate from the United Kingdom – and Liberal Democrats in Scotland will fight separation, tooth and nail."

Mr Ashdown attacked Labour councils facing allegations of sleaze. He said Britain's rotten boroughs, most Labour-controlled, "have shamed local government and have shamed our democracy."

Unlike Labour, the Lib Dems were not afraid to call for the redistribution of wealth. He mocked Mr Blair's claims to be playing a leading role in Europe and said events would force him to call a referendum on the single currency.

On foreign affairs, Mr Ashdown insisted that Europe could no longer rely on the US to "bail us out every time there's trouble in our own back yard". He called on the West to threaten to use air power against the Serbs over their actions in Kosovo.



Paddy Ashdown told his party to keep its nerve yesterday, and hinted that cooperation with Labour could be withdrawn *John Voos*

Activists rebuffed on trust proposal

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

PADDY ASHDOWN vowed to press ahead with radical proposals to shift power over schools to parents from local councillors in spite of overwhelming party opposition.

Mr Ashdown made clear during his speech that the Neighbourhood School Trusts, which would consist of community-based groups such as parish councils, were at the heart of his vision of the "powerful citizen". The party had "nothing to say as liberals" if it did not trust the people to do things for themselves and became a "mere centre for power".

As part of his campaign to change the education structure, Liverpool City Council, which is Liberal Democrat-led, will set up the trusts in a pilot scheme to try to alter party members' mind on the issue.

But delegates expressed concern that the plans would diminish the role of local councillors, many of whom are Liberal Democrats.

Terry James, 50, from Leominster, said the proposals were unworkable: not all parents had the experience to know what was best for schools. "The leadership needs to reconsider. Not all areas have middle-class parents who want to be involved in education."

Glorious vision as he takes us supersonic

THE SKETCH

MICHAEL BROWN

I FLEW Ashdown Airways yesterday for the long journey to inspect Utopia in the land of Liberal Democracy. Captain Ashdown piloted the flight himself. There was a two-hour delay before take off because a couple of hundred leery-eyed freedom-fighters, hung over from their end of conference cabaret the night before, insisted on debating law, order and legal affairs.

Some 1,500 Liberal Democrats boarded the flight and were all strapped in. Then the Captain started the engines for a long hazardous journey ahead. Previous owners of this airline, including David Steel, have been unsuccessful in their attempts to navigate the route.

This airline manufactures its own aircraft and insists that it will not buy from other companies. Indeed, it claims to be in the market to sell rivals some of its own components. The model we were flying yesterday, designed by the Captain, is a cross between an ageing jumbo and Concorde, though it has its roots in the Tiger Moth.

Within a couple of minutes we were airborne. Captain Ashdown loves flying this route and he provides virtually continuous commentary to his passengers, but warns them that the journey is particularly prone to turbulence. He raised his voice as he told them: "For decades we have circled the walls of Jericho, blowing trumpets of reform. Now, at last, the walls are coming down. If we keep our nerve."

Captain Ashdown did not like using the autopilot, as he likes to screw up his eyes and peer out into a middle distance, thus obtaining plenty of vision. He described in graphic detail the view from the cockpit and pointed out a liberal agenda for a liberal century. He seemed to get particularly excited about the vision of "the powerful citizen".

The speed increased and he hinted to us that part of the journey would be at supersonic speed – perhaps a flight of fancy – and referred to "the very threshold of an historic achievement".

Unfortunately, like most long flights there were some signs of boredom from the passengers. Many drifted off to sleep, especially when we flew over Kosovo.

They woke up, however, when Captain Ashdown warned them of turbulence in the Labour Party over winning fair votes.

The familiar plastic tray of Liberal Democrat fare was advertised on the Ashdown Airways menu as a two-course meal. The main course was, of course, fair votes. Lords reform was for dessert.

It is always good when the plane lands safely and the Captain's touchdown gave a sense of thrill which brought forward a good round of applause. Passengers couldn't wait to jump up out of their seats the moment he turned the engine off. Like all good pilots he stood by the door beaming, smiling, waving and glad-handing as the loyal passengers alighted on the future.

Wigley: We will hold balance

PLAID CYMRU

BY BRENDAN BERRY

WELSH NATIONALISTS could stop Labour having overall control of the Welsh Assembly, Plaid Cymru said yesterday.

The party president, Dafydd Wigley, said growing support for the party in opinion polls and the increasing unpopularity of the Labour government made 30 per cent of the vote an attainable target in the historic elections next May.

At the opening of Plaid Cymru's annual conference in Cardiff, Mr Wigley said: "For the first time we are in a position to take on the responsibility of power. After more than 70 years of campaigning as a party, we are now ready to play a part in the government of our country."

Polls give Plaid Cymru 24 per cent support among Welsh voters, more than double the level at the general election.

Mr Wigley predicted that even more disillusioned Labour voters would switch their support because of the Government's lack of action over the problems of manufacturing industry and agriculture, key sectors in Wales.

Salmond hits at whingers

SNP

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

SCOTS WILL be told today by Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party to stop whingeing and blaming the English for all their woes.

With the Scottish Parliament due to come into being in nine months, he believes Scots must accept responsibility for what happens north of the border.

The "whingeing Jocks" reputation really rankles with the Scottish people, but is unlikely to be lost while everything from poor housing and job losses to Scotland's place at the end of the weather forecast is blamed on a London conspiracy.

Mr Salmond's keynote speech to the party's annual conference in Inverness will focus on "identity, ideals and vision". A leadership source said he would tell the Scots to "stop whining and trying to shift the blame for everything that goes wrong to our neighbours south of the border". He will also dwell on the "climate of fear" in the public services and his belief that education standards can only be raised by boosting the morale of teachers.

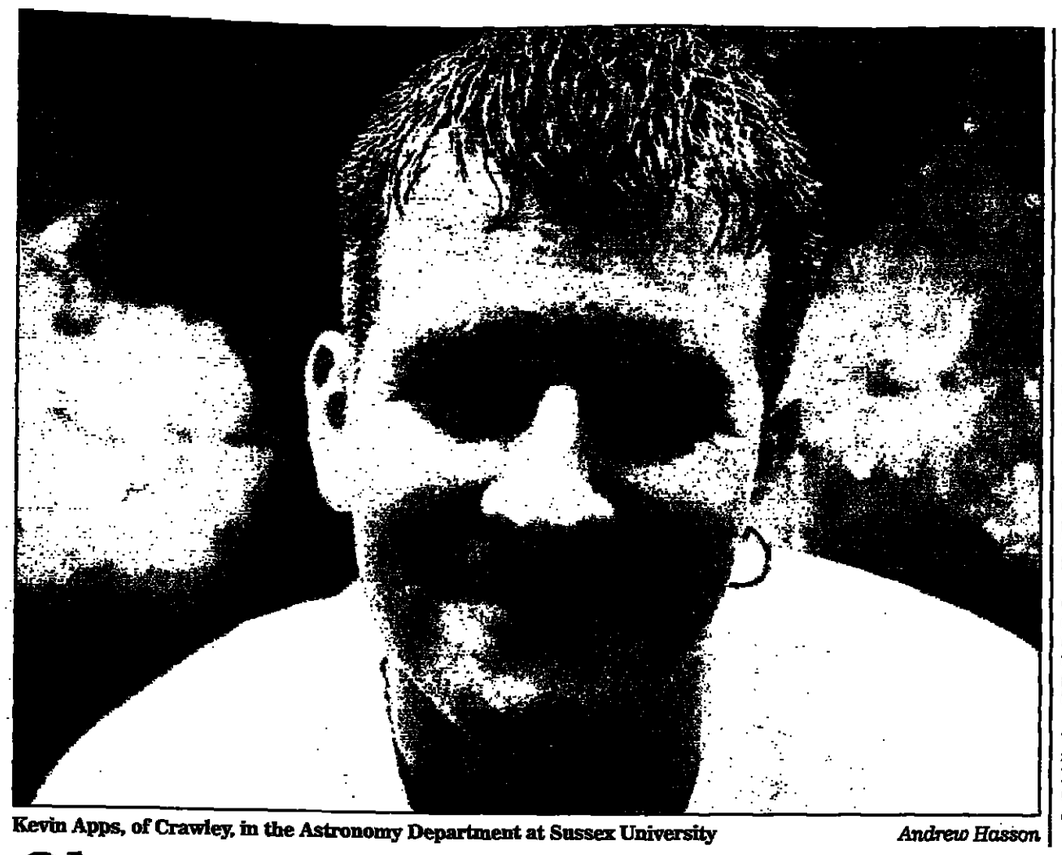
Meanwhile, frustration among the party's grass roots over the leadership's sanitising of the conference and its refusal to declare its hand on taxation boiled over yesterday.

John Swinney, MP for Tayside North and the party's Treasury spokesman, confirmed that middle and upper-income earners would pay more tax in an independent Scotland. His admission came only after members publicly urged the leadership to be more "aspirational".

An SNP government would scrap the ceiling on national insurance contributions, imposing a bigger burden on anyone earning more than £26,500. Someone on £40,000 a year would pay an extra £7 a week. The proposal featured in the party's 1997 general election manifesto, but no mention has been made of it in the debate over possible tax differences between Scotland and England.

The SNP has also tried to keep silent on whether or not it would use the "tartan tax" – the power of the new parliament to vary the basic rate of income tax by up to 3p in the pound.

Leading article, Review, page 3



Kevin Apps, of Crawley, in the Astronomy Department at Sussex University *Andrew Hasson*

Goldsmiths fund Sykes' anti-euros

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

THE FAMILY of the late Sir James Goldsmith has decided to jointly fund a £40m campaign against the single currency, masterminded by Eurosceptic millionaire Paul Sykes.

The Yorkshire businessman teamed up with the Referendum Movement, the successor to Sir James' Referendum party, yesterday as he unveiled *Britain's largest-ever* anti-federalist group.

As *The Independent* disclosed last month, the Democracy Movement will be non-party-political, and will aim to educate the public of the dangers of replacing the pound with the euro.

Senior Tory Eurosceptics will mount a major offensive against the pro-Europeans Michael Heseltine and Ken Clarke at next month's party conference.

Former party chairman, Lord Tebbitt, will be joined by Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, John Redwood, and former Chancellor, Lord Lamont, at the biggest fringe meeting of the Bournmouth conference.

The meeting of Conservatives Against A Federal Europe will act as a focus for opposition to the pro-Europe Conservative mainstream events organised by Mr Heseltine.

Mr Sykes revealed that he personally will put in half of the £40m funds for the Democracy Movement and that the remainder will come from Sir James' family and other private donors. The public had £450,000 already, he said.

"We are not going to be short of money," Mr Sykes said. "I am not giving in now. I know we are right on this; I will not be backing off."

Mr Sykes will be chairman and chief spokesman, and Robin Birley, current Referendum Movement head, will be vice-chairman and campaign chief.

Its nationwide publicity campaign will be backed by a specially-formed expert panel, including advisors from every nation of the EU and the US.

The new group will not have a membership, but people will be invited to register as supporters to receive regular communications and become involved in campaigning.

Mr Sykes said he had always had a "dialogue" with the Referendum Movement, and had *spoken in the past to Sir James* Goldsmith.

"The new movement rapidly starting to come together when I realised we needed grassroots activists throughout the nation and we've only got so much time. We met, and very quickly put things together.

"Between us we could become surely the most serious opposition to Economic and Monetary Union," he said.

The movement plans co-ordinated Democracy Days from January 1 1999, when the euro becomes a *reality for* 11 EU member states. Polling is also planned and information will be put on the Internet.

Mr Sykes said that he would be targeting trade union members in the campaign to keep the pound.

"Because we are non-party-political, one of the main areas I intend to concentrate on is *that of the union movement.*

"Those are the people who are going to get cut up in this *thing, not big business," said Mr* Sykes.

Observant Kevin finds a new planet

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

A BRITISH student who was given a telescope at the age of 10 by his parents has helped American scientists *to find* a new planet orbiting a distant star.

Kevin Apps, a 25-year-old undergraduate at Sussex University, told the Nasa (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) team working *with the giant Keck telescope* in Hawaii that it was wasting its time looking at certain stars and should concentrate its efforts on another set of stars.

"I checked the stars against a catalogue I got on a CD-Rom from the European Space Agency and found they were not suitable for a planet search," he said. "The guys in America just hadn't noticed themselves because they were too busy *perfecting their techniques.*"

Mr Apps, who is taking a degree in astrophysics, drew up a shortlist of the 30 stars most likely to possess planetary systems, one of which did.

"I checked the colour of the stars to see if they were *a similar* temperature and brightness to the Sun. I then worked out the composition to see if they had the right elements. It took some time but it paid off," Mr Apps said.

The American team offered to check his shortlist with the *Keck telescope.* "It's the world's largest telescope and very few professionals get to use it. So for an amateur like me to get his stars on it is amazing. I was over the moon," Mr Apps said.

Geoffrey Marcy, professor of science at San Francisco *University, and Paul Butler,* an astronomer at the Anglo-American Observatory, said they could not have made the discovery without Mr Apps's help.

"He shows a fierce interest in this research. It's great to have him as a colleague," Professor Marcy said.

The US team also found a second new planet orbiting another star, which brings the total number of planets found *outside our solar system to* 12. The research is published under joint names with Mr Apps.

The two latest planets were detected by monitoring the gravitational "wobble" exerted on their stars. Neither is likely to support life, as they pass too close to their suns.

But Professor Marcy said the search is likely to discover contenders for extraterrestrial life: "Make no mistake about it, what we're all about is discovering planets where evolution might have gained a toehold."

Youngest judge installed at 42

BRITAIN'S YOUNGEST judge took up his place yesterday. Robert Reed, 42, was installed on the bench of Scotland at a ceremony in Edinburgh's Parliament House.

The former Queen's Counsel, who will take the title Lord Reed, beat the previous holder, Lord Devlin, *who was several* months older when installed in 1948. Lord Reed studied at Edinburgh University, where he gained a first class honours degree in 1978 before undertaking a PhD in comparative administrative law at Oxford. He was a solicitor in Edinburgh and became an expert in human rights and European law.

He became a QC three years ago and in 1996 was appointed Advocate Depute. He featured prominently for the Crown in the failed Glasgow ice-cream war appeals of Thomas "TC" Campbell and Joseph Steel.

Lord Reed said he hoped his *new role would allow him and* his daughters, aged eight and nine, to use more often their season ticket for Celtic Park.

IN BRIEF

Sainsbury's sister fined £1,000 for cruelty to her cattle

The sister of the supermarket chief Lord Sainsbury of Turville was yesterday fined £1,000 and ordered to pay more than *£13,000 in costs and compensation* after admitting 22 charges of animal cruelty to cattle on her farm. Annabel Kanabus, 50, pleaded guilty at Horsham magistrates' court to allowing unnecessary suffering to be caused to cattle on the 400-acre farm she owned in West Grinstead, Sussex.

Car travel rises 37% in a decade

CAR TRAVEL in Britain has increased by more than one-third in the last decade, according to government figures. In 1995/97, the average Briton travelled nearly 6,700 miles a year, an *increase of one-quarter* since 1985/86. Bus use outside London fell 22 per cent.

Two questioned over baby's death

DETECTIVES INVESTIGATING *the murder of* a three-month-old boy were still questioning a man and a woman yesterday. Michael Riopedre, of Sheringham, Norfolk, died on Tuesday in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. The inquiry was launched after a post-mortem examination.

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 25 September 1998

Sleepless babies are mum's fault, says research

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

BABIES WHO continually cry at night might feel insecure with their mother, according to new research by psychiatrists.

If mother and baby did not form an attachment by the time the infant turned one, the baby was far more likely to have sleeping problems, Dr Julian Morrell told the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Child and Adolescent Faculty Conference in Bristol yesterday. Other factors which could exacerbate bad nights included a mother's angry feelings towards the crying child or the baby's "difficult temperament".

But Dr Morrell, a senior lecturer in child psychiatry in Oxford, was immediately attacked by child experts who said his comments were "thoroughly unhelpful" and could only contribute to mothers' "insecurity and sense of guilt".

Around one in five infants regularly wake up in the night and once established the problem tends to persist, leading to about a quarter of parents seeking help. A child with sleeping problems is defined by one which wakes at least five times a week, or three times a night, or for half an hour or longer and has to come into the parental bed.

Dr Morrell looked at 64 mothers and babies aged between 14 to 16 months. Of these, 27 had sleeping problems. In the control group of 37, the babies only woke one night a week or very occasionally. In the sleep problems group half the babies had attachment problems compared with only one in twelve in the group which slept peacefully. "The difference is quite striking," said Dr Morrell.

Attachment between mother and child, Dr Morrell said, depended on "the quality and sensitivity of the interaction of the mother [or primary carer] as the child develops over the first year of life".

By the end of their first year the majority of babies became attached to their mother and showed distress if she left. But babies who did not form an attachment were characterised by not showing a sense of distress when she left or recognising her return. They also might show some distress, but primarily their feelings were of anger towards their mother, wriggling and squirming when they were picked up.

Dr Morrell said other factors which proved significant included the mother's behaviour – if she got angry at the infant's demands, felt doubt at her own competence or was depressed – or if the baby had a "difficult" temperament.

Mary Daly, spokeswoman for the Community Practitioners and Health Visitors' Association said yesterday: "This is thoroughly unhelpful and adds to the sense of guilt women feel and their insecurity as parents. It also shows our attitude to crying as a society. Babies cry because otherwise they would not survive. It calls us to their side so it can be a positive thing.

"Parents are exhausted by the birth and the crying further exhausts them. What would have been more helpful would be advice on practical interventions to help them," she concluded.

Dr Morrell said the research had important implications for treating sleeping problems and added: "If an insecure attachment is related to sleeping problems, leaving [such babies] to cry is going to make it even worse as they will feel even more insecure. We wanted to get people to think about these things in order to help parents."

Tears before bedtime which can lead to sleepless nights *Joanne O'Brien/Format*

Children who fear eating

BY GLENDA COOPER

A NEW form of food disorder in children described as "fear of eating" can have even more severe effects than anorexia nervosa, psychiatrists were told yesterday.

Food Avoidance Emotional Disorder (FAED) now accounts for a quarter of cases seen by the specialist eating disorders team at Great Ormond Street Hospital. FAED children do not fear getting fat but they are physically afraid of eating.

"Common things the children say is that they are afraid of being sick, or afraid of hurting their tummy or afraid they will choke," said Dr Dasha Nicholls, clinical lecturer at the Institute of Child Health. "It is an emotional disorder but unlike anorexia nervosa where there is one very specific fear – fear of fatness – there are a variety of fears."

The Great Ormond eating disorders team compared the two types. They found that the FAED group tended to be younger than anorexics: the mean age was 11.8 years compared with 13.5 years. They were also more likely to be boys: the ratio was two girls to one boy compared with nine girls to one boy for anorexia.

"People do not recognise FAED because it is not talked about," Dr Nicholls told the Royal College of Psychiatrists Child and Adolescent Conference in Bristol. "They are quite commonly investigated for physical illnesses to explain the weight loss. Sometimes they may have physical illnesses that explain the loss of appetite but do not explain why they cannot recover [their appetite]."

The reason why FAED can have even more devastating effects is because of the earlier onset. Dr Nicholls had seen a child as young as seven suffering from the disorder, which can affect development. There was "significant stunting" in the FAED group although with treatment catch-up growth could occur. "Anorexia does not usually occur until full growth and development," Dr Nicholls said. "FAED can result in impaired growth, pubertal delay and osteoporosis." There is also a fear that FAED patients may go on later to develop anorexia.

Unlike patients with anorexia, patients with FAED want to get better and gain weight but have to overcome their fear of eating. "The basic approach is that the child needs help from their family to learn to eat again as well as individual help and management of their own anxiety." Dr Nicholls said. "We have to help them overcome their emotional disability."

Latest trains take blame

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

A COMMUTER rail company admitted yesterday that trains delivered only three years ago were 13 times as unreliable as rolling stock built 40 years old.

Comex, the French-owned company that runs services into London from a huge swathe of south-east England, said its Networker trains were to blame for its recent fall in performance. The chief executive, Antoine Hurel, said the Networkers, which make up a third of the company's fleet, suffered a "casualty" – a breakdown causing the train to be taken out of service – every 3,000 miles. This compared with a rate of once in 40,000 for its ageing "slam-door" trains.

Mr Hurel said Connex was in discussions with the rolling stock companies and the manufacturers to solve the problems. Connex has leased the 730 carriages, out of a total stock of 2,200, until 2004. The company said its lawyers had ruled out ways of breaking the contract. "We are setting them a target for improving reliability up to levels we want with new rolling stock," Mr Hurel said. "It is hurting us a lot in our image... it is hurting us contractually and we are triggering financial penalties."

The latest figures from the official watchdog showed reliability and punctuality of both Connex networks fell in the year to June.

Connex has announced details of a £70m order for 25 new trains, which will be in service in the winter of 2000 and meet a franchise commitment to replace certain slam-door trains. The trains, for use in Kent, will be built by Adtranz, which built half of the Networkers. The new rolling stock has a projected breakdown rate of once every 60,000 miles.

Doctors fail writing test

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

THE LEGENDARY illegibility of doctors' handwriting receives scientific backing today from a study that shows medical notes really are as unreadable as they seem.

A comparison of doctors' handwriting with that of nurses and managers showed the medics came out worst. Even when asked to write as neatly as possible, doctors were incapable of producing script that could be recognised by a computer designed for the job.

Researchers in Swansea asked 38 doctors to write the letters of the alphabet and the numbers 0-9 on a form which they were told would be used to test a computer programme for optical character recognition.

The samples of writing, together with similar samples from the nurses and managers, were analysed using a standard computer software package and unrecognised characters highlighted. The doctors scored twice as many errors as the nurses and managers.

Doctors' poor writing has been attributed to the number of prescriptions patients ask them to write. But the researchers, writing in the *British Medical Journal*, say that surprisingly they were better at writing numbers than letters. "This may reflect the importance attached by doctors to the legibility of drug doses," they say.

■ Proof that doctors are labouring under a paper mountain of bureacracy has come from a study of 65 GP practices in Cambridge. Researchers collected 855 different guidelines which, when stacked up, made a pile more than 2ft high weighing more than 60 lbs. An urgent switch to an electronic medium that would allow searches for specific information is needed they say.

Rebels take on 'greedy' National Trust

THE NATIONAL Trust has become greedy and is failing in its duties to the nation's heritage, say thousands of its members.

Disillusioned members feel the trust's problems have become so serious that they have formed a breakaway organisation – Friends of the National Trust (Font) – to return it to its core aims – to preserve and conserve the nation's heritage.

The group says it already has 3,000 members and that more people are joining every day.

Charles Collins, a life member of the trust, who founded Font with Richard Clegg QC, Baroness Ann Mallalieu QC and Tim Cassell QC, said the trust had an increasing tendency to make decisions based on short-term commercial expedience rather than common sense and expert advice.

"We have heard from tenants living in villages bequeathed to the trust who say the trust is ruining traditional village life by selling houses to commuters and as holiday lets. And we just feel that it has become too large and too greedy.

"Why do they need to spend £3m buying Snowdonia when it was already being preserved and conserved by the National Parks Agency? The perception is that they will end up developing it with their shops and car parks and the money would have been much better spent preserving houses or buying art and treasures," he said.

Font was also concerned, he said, that the trust had banned deer hunting on the

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

Holnicote Estate in Exmoor, a decision that disregarded the express wishes of Sir Richard Acland, who donated the land.

"By ignoring the memoranda of wishes, which is about what the donor wants and is morally, if not legally, binding, the trust is making up the rules as it goes along. It has become authoritarian.

"We are all very enthusiastic member and appreciate what the trust was set up to do, but we feel that its decisions are off line at the moment," he said.

As part of its campaign for reform, Font has tabled three resolutions for consideration at the trust's annual general meeting in November.

It has nominated seven candidates to stand for election to the trust's council, including Lucinda Green, an Olympic gold medallist.

The trust banned hunting in April 1997 after a report by Professor Patrick Bateson, which found that pursuit by dogs and people on horseback was grossly stressful, exhausting and agonising for the red deer of Devon and Somerset.

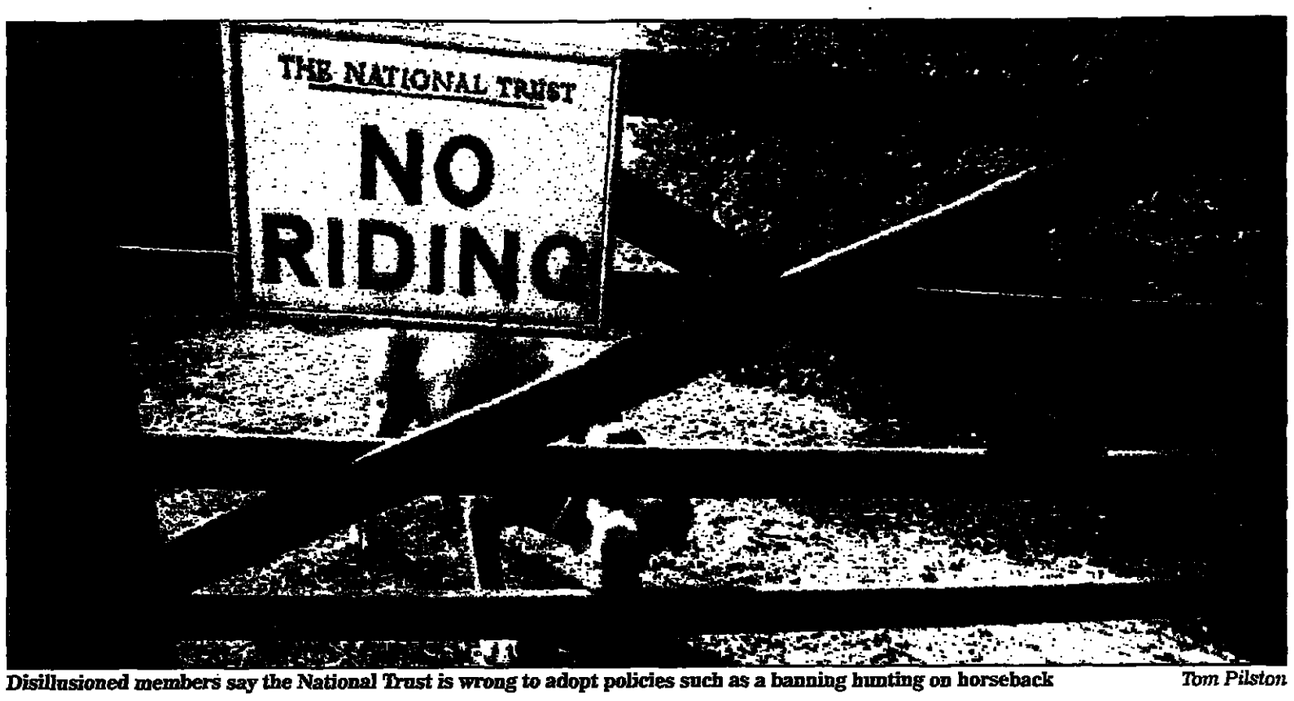
But Mr Clegg said the trust had violated its agreement with Sir Richard who bequeathed his land on the understanding that deer hunting would be permitted on the estate for as long as it continued on neighbouring land.

"Hunting has not been banned by law and the trust has reneged on the specific wishes of Sir Richard. They had no right to do that and we feel the situation should be reversed," he said.

Baroness Mallalieu also has submitted a resolution to the meeting, saying the trust is pursuing a policy of selling property and land for commercial development, which brings it into direct conflict with environmentalists and the trust's neighbours and supporters.

"Those of us who support the aims of the trust to protect and preserve our heritage are greatly saddened to find that it is increasingly seen as an enemy of the countryside instead of its champion. Resentment against the trust is now country wide," she states.

A spokeswoman for the National Trust said it could not approve of Font's call for the reintroduction of deer hunting. "Any organisation as large as the trust is bound to have dissentions and disagreements and it is proper that people should be able to voice their opinions," she said.



Disillusioned members say the National Trust is wrong to adopt policies such as a banning hunting on horseback — *Tom Pilston*

Universities face official hit squads

POORLY PERFORMING universities, health authorities and hospitals will face government "hit squads", under ambitious plans to transform Britain's public services.

Ministers revealed yesterday that improvement teams similar to those sent in to ailing schools will be ordered into other institutions if they fail to meet new national standards.

Performance targets will be announced in the autumn in an attempt to ensure that the Government gets value for money from the £40 billion released for health and education by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the summer.

A glimpse of the standards will be given next week when Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, announces health authorities' targets for coronary heart disease and mental health services.

Literacy and numeracy standards planned for 11-year-olds are also likely to be accompanied by the first performance

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

targets for universities and further education colleges.

Public opinion of failing services will play a key part in the plans and a survey of 100,000 NHS patients may be followed by similar polls of parents' views of their schools.

The threat of hit squads for poor performers will be balanced by cash rewards for those that do well. Rewards similar to the £30 million made available to hospitals that slashed their waiting lists, are likely.

A group high-achieving doctors, nurses, head teachers and academics was given a preview of the proposals at a seminar with ministers yesterday. The group will meet regularly to advise ministers.

The national list of standards will be implemented through a series of three-year Public Service Agreements between the Treasury and spending departments.

Prize-winning plant display was cannabis

JUDGES OF the "Glastonbury in Bloom" competition were so taken with the colourful display in the window of the "In Harmony With Nature" shop that they awarded the owner a prize for Best New Entry.

It was only after "Free Rob Cannabis" received his certificate that judges discovered the winning display contained 13 cannabis plants.

Mr Cannabis, who changed his name by deed poll last year from Robert Christopher, said: "I can't believe they didn't spot them. They have been in front of the shop in pots for two months. The council even send workers round each morning to water all these plants."

Judges visited Mr Cannabis' shopfront a handful of times

BY SHELDON MILLER

before reaching a final decision last July. But last Saturday at the official awards ceremony in the town hall, they realised their error. As Mr Cannabis mingled with councillors, he disclosed he had been arrested a few days earlier by police for having the dope plants.

Alan Gloak, deputy mayor of Mendip District Council, said: "Rob's display was excellent, it was a real splash of colour. There was a great variety of plants. Unfortunately we didn't spot just how many varieties there were."

There were no plans to strip Mr Cannabis of his civic award. He has been bailed to appear at Yeovil police station.

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 25 September 1998

New targets for male and black teachers

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

TEACHER TRAINING colleges are to be given targets for increasing the number of students recruited from the ethnic minorities after new figures showed 28 colleges had an all-white entry.

Targets will also be set for raising the number of men training to be teachers after the first teacher training league tables showed some courses were 96 per cent female.

The Teacher Training Agency, which launched a national advertising campaign earlier this year under the slogan "No one forgets a good teacher", promised research into colleges' marketing.

Schools are facing acute shortages of teachers, particularly in subjects such as maths and science.

A Green Paper on teachers' pay and conditions, due to be published later this autumn, is expected to propose far reaching reforms to try to attract more people into the profession.

The agency's figures, covering the 1996-97 academic year, show 5 per cent of people entering teacher training for primary and 7 per cent of those starting to train for secondary school teaching were from ethnic minorities. Figures for the number of male trainees tell a similar story. Men accounted for just 14 per cent of people entering primary teacher training, although they represented 43 per cent of secondary trainees.

The tables also highlighted the low A-level grades needed to enter teacher training. On average only 15 per cent of students entering primary teacher training degrees had 20 or more A-level points – the equivalent of a B and two Cs. Nearly 60 per cent of those starting postgraduate training for secondary schools and slightly less than half of primary school trainees had an upper second-class degree.

Colleges disputed the figures, saying that they were out of date and, in some cases, inaccurate.

Dr Kate Perry, principal of Homerton College, Cambridge, said the tables excluded the latest data. "We have to be as accurate as possible on all these facts and figures," she said.

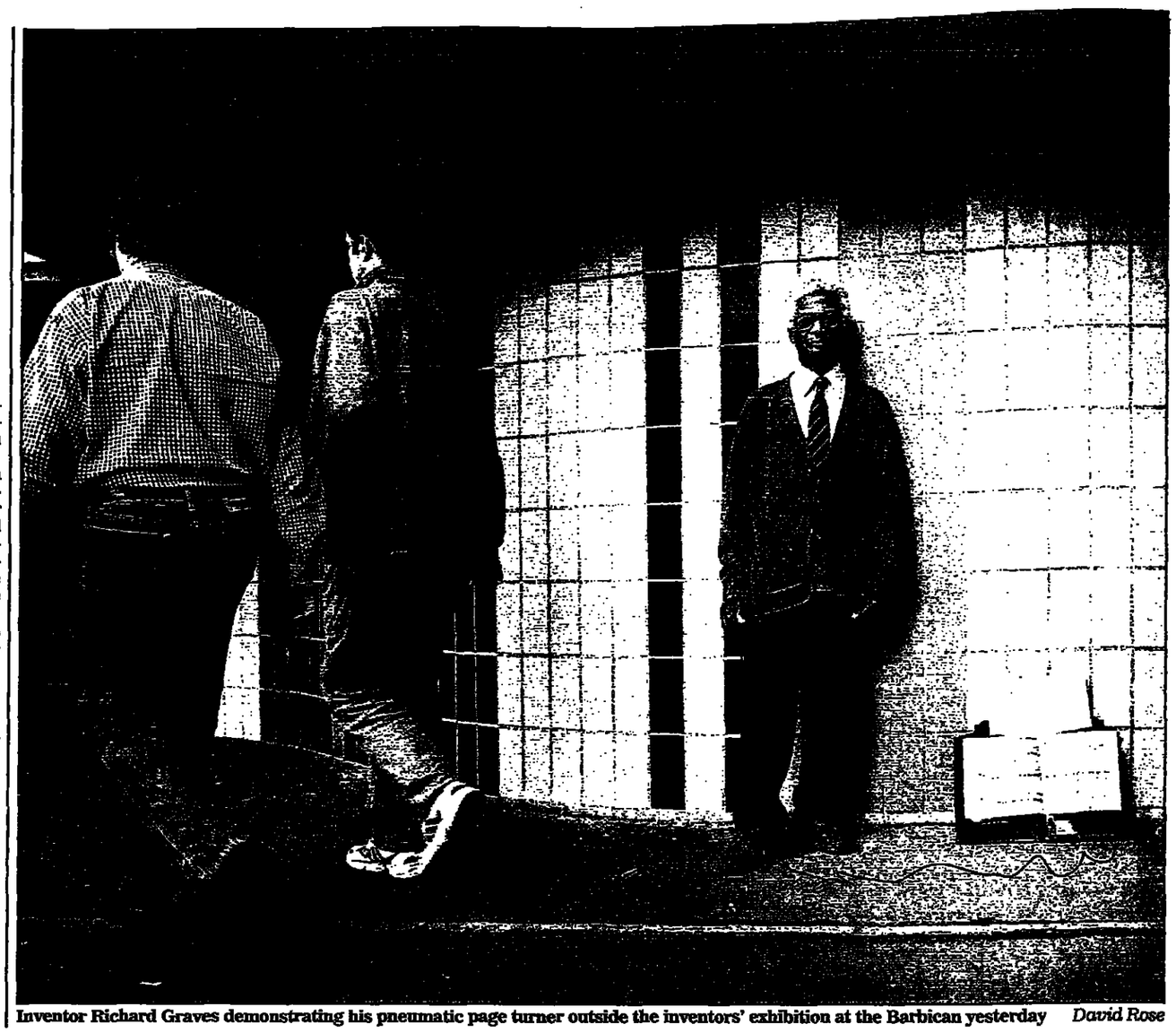
Harkirtan Singh-Raud, of Liverpool John Moores University, has been studying attitudes to teaching among Asian graduates.

The tables show John Moores had no ethnic minority entrants for primary teacher training, but Dr Singh-Raud said there was an acute shortage of role models. "It's a vicious circle. We can't get people on campus, so we can't produce enough ethnic minority teachers and there are not the role models to get them on to the campus," he said.

Anthea Millett, the agency's chief executive, said: "The numbers of men coming into teaching is very small. We can't afford not to trawl for people in half of the population. We need to bring in more recruits and we want more men and people from ethnic minorities."

She said the agency would learn lessons from the colleges that best attract people from ethnic minorities.

She added: "We have to present teaching as a profession to make it more exciting to men, which means looking at the intellectual challenges of teaching, the rigour and the career prospects."



Inventor Richard Graves demonstrating his pneumatic page turner outside the inventors' exhibition at the Barbican yesterday *David Rose*

Chocoholics can be cured if they inhale

BY CLARE GARNER

DIE-HARD chocoholics can now sniff their way to being slim, thanks to a new aromatic patch that helps to suppress the desire for chocolate.

The small, blue, adhesive plaster – worn on the wrist, arm or shoulder like a nicotine patch – is impregnated with the oil of a tropical orchid.

The Svelte Patches are the invention of Liz Paul, a food specialist from Yorkshire, who overcame her own chocoholism by using the smell of a tropical orchid. She knew that there was a strong connection between smell and taste, so set out in search of the aroma that would put her off chocolate.

"I lost two stone," she said. "It's the only aid to dieting that has kept the weight off. I used to go on a diet for four days and then binge on chocolate, cakes and biscuits. But the smell of a tropical orchid – a component of chocolate – sends a message to the area of the brain which controls emotions saying, 'I've had enough sweet food'."

After her successful sniff'n'slim programme, Mrs Paul, 44, decided to patent the idea. She has also patented smells for premenstrual tension, stress and headaches.

Inventors displaying their gadgets and gizmos yesterday at the sixth London International Inventions Fair at the Barbican Centre seemed to have an answer for everything. If spiders are your problem, perhaps Tony Allen, 48, of Cork, can help. He was fed up with trying to catch spiders in hysterical children's bedrooms. He also hated killing them.

"Old Irish folklore says that there will be rainy weather if you kill a spider," he said, producing a live daddy-long-legs from his pocket. "This flexible bristle head is activated by a hand trigger," he explained, preparing to zap the creature with his £9.99 Spider Catcher.

"It pulls the spider into the head of the device and traps it. You can get rid of the spider without touching or killing it."

Mr Allen grinned as he returned the friendly spider to his pocket. "So simple that probably no one ever thought of it."

One of the best ideas did not find its way into the exhibition hall. Richard Graves, 78, of Kent, kept vigil outside the Barbican Centre, intermittently pressing the pump of his Page Turner.

"I used to turn pages for my brother when he was playing the piano as a child. I kept wondering why someone doesn't invent something to enable the player himself," said Mr Graves, who believes his gadget could be used by disabled people, too.

He feels sure that one day someone will pick up on his patented idea, but until then he cannot afford the £200 fee to parade his invention.

Surgical breakthrough: 'Frankenstein' operation takes medical science into new moral territory

Doctors give patient dead man's hand

Professor Dubernard (above) led the operation; Professor Hakim (left) was the British member of the team

IN A hospital in Lyons on Wednesday, Frankenstein met the Bionic Man. In what may prove to be an extraordinary scientific breakthrough – but may also bring humankind to a new psychological and ethical frontier – the hand and lower arm of a dead Frenchman was attached to the body of a live New Zealander.

"To achieve a transplant of the human hand is a myth which has haunted the mind of mankind since the dawn of time," said a statement from the eight surgeons – French, Australian, British and Italian – who performed the 13-hours of surgery. As the doctors conceded, the operation took medical science into entirely new moral territory.

A hand is not a vital organ; the risk to the patient is less than in a heart transplant. But the hand is part of the personality of human kind and a specific hand part of the personality of an individual human being. The doctors recognised that, for the first time in transplant surgery, there was a risk of psychological and emotional rejection by the patient, as well as physical. They also recognise that they are

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

acting at the limits of scientific knowledge and medical skill.

The reattachment of severed hands and arms is now a regular occurrence; but the problems of overcoming the body's system of immunity, or rejection of alien substances, has prevented any serious attempt to attach a donor hand.

The doctor who led the team,

Professor Jean-Miche Dubernard, of the Edouard-Herriot hospital in Lyons, said the operation – if ultimately successful – would provide new hope to hundreds of thousands of people worldwide who had lost hands in wars or work accidents or through congenital defects.

It appears that there was some element of medical competition involved in the secret gathering of surgeons in Lyons. A hospital in Louisville, Kentucky, announced in July that it expected to perform a similar operation by the end of the year.

It will be 18 months before Clint Hallam, 48, of Perth, Western Australia, knows whether he can use his new right hand, if his body does not physically reject the transplant long before then. The team used the most recent American and Japanese drugs to suppress the body's immune system, previously used on animals. But Mr Hallam, who lost his own hand in a chain-saw accident nine years ago, was warned that he was a guinea-pig.

The medical team has no idea whether, or for how long, the drugs will suppress rejection. The patient will have regular courses of anti-immune drugs for the rest of his life but also psychological treatment.

"Mr Hallam is a very determined and balanced man," the doctors said. "His courage and determination have enabled him to accept the role of pioneer in what could become a new era of surgery."

The British member of the Lyons team, Professor Nadey Hakim, of Saint Mary's Hospital, London, is an expert in immunosuppression. He said yesterday he was hopeful that Mr Hallam would gain full use of his arm. "You have to dare in medicine or it does not advance and what we have done here is to dare. An international team has moved medicine forward and I feel very privileged to have been part of it," he said. "At the moment we are at the very early stages and the patient is not allowed to move the limb, but the operation went extremely well.

The doctors worked in relays from 10am to 11.30pm, with Professor Dubernard supervising the preliminary work on the patient and donor and Professor Earl Owen, director of the Australian Institute of Microsurgery, in charge of the transplant.

The longest and most crucial part of the operation involved the joining of the three principal nerves of the fore-arm, by the microscopic sewing together of scores of nerve endings. The two bones of the lower arm were joined to the new lower arm and hand with metal plates and screws; two arteries and three principal veins were linked up, using the most advanced microsurgery tested in similar operations to restore a patient's own hand or arm. Twenty-one tendons had to be connected to restore muscle use.

The donor of the hand will remain anonymous, as French law demands. The hospital said only that he was a middle-aged man, who was brain-dead as a result of an accident; that his family had given permission; and that a false hand would be fitted to his body before burial.

'It must be the way of the future, but is the time right?'

THE TRANSPLANT world has been waiting for the first operation involving a donated limb. The potential is immense – opening up the possibility of surgery to replace missing body parts damaged in accidents, by disease or simply by the wear and tear involved in ageing.

The surgery has been technically possible for several years. With advances in microsurgery, in which tiny arteries and nerves are joined

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

under a microscope, dozens of patients have had their own hands reattached after being severed in accidents. But the use of a donated hand has been held up by problems of rejection. There are worries about the ethics of using powerful immunosuppressant drugs in patients who are not facing a life-threatening condition.

The skin stimulates a stronger immune response than other organs in the body and the Australian patient operated on in Lyons will have required large doses of drugs to prevent his body rejecting the transplanted hand. However, the drugs increase the risk of cancer and infection, because the immune system is suppressed, and there is also a risk of the reaction known as graft-versus-host disease, in which the transplanted hand rejects the body, triggering a potentially fatal reaction.

The International Federation of Societies of Surgery of the Hand decided at its meeting in Vancouver, Canada, earlier this year that a transplant of a donor hand should be carried out only in someone who had already had an organ transplant and was therefore already taking immunosuppressant drugs.

If the rejection problems could be overcome, the queue of patients for spare-part surgery could be huge. Although accident victims would be the obvious candidates, there is no technical reason why it should not be extended to degenerate or worn-out parts of the body. An elderly knee or hip joint could then be replaced with a youthful human joint with many years of wear left.

Simon Kay, consultant microsurgeon at St James's University Hospital, Leeds, who has reattached more than a dozen hands for people who have had them severed, said: "A replanted hand is an extremely useful hand. It is definitely worth doing. A transplanted hand is another matter. It has to be the way of the future, but the question is whether the time is right."

Mr Kay said that scientists at the Christine Kleinert Institute in Louisville, in the United States, had had a programme working towards the transplant of a hand for eight months. "There are big ethical and psychological issues. The drugs are toxic and the operation [to attach a donor hand] could not be described as life-saving."

Research was advanced into ways of overcoming the rejection problem without drugs. "It may be possible to remove the immune response in the transplanted part, or induce the body to recognise it as its own," Mr Kay said.

Arafat's in-law starts a storm

BY ERIC SILVER
in Jerusalem

YASSER ARAFAT'S mother-in-law threatened to leave the Palestinian-ruled West Bank for Paris yesterday after a dispute with the Palestinian leader over the right of the Arabic media to criticise his ministers.

Raymonda Taweel spent six months under Israeli house arrest in the Seventies for campaigning against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. She took refuge in France after her car was set on fire, but returned when her son-in-law established the Palestinian Authority in 1994.

The quarrel erupted earlier this month after Mrs Taweel criticised the Palestinian Finance Minister, Mohammed Nashashibi, in *al-Awda*, a magazine she edits in East Jerusalem. Mr Nashashibi had withheld a subsidy, worth about £10,000 a month, from the magazine. He dismissed *al-Awda* and other East Jerusalem publications as a waste of money.

Mrs Taweel and her co-editor, Ibrahim Kara'een, reminded their readers that the minister had lived abroad in comfort while they were suffering under occupation. They condemned him for lodging in a luxury hotel since his return from exile and building himself a mansion in Jordan.

According to her, the minister's daughter left a message on her answering machine promising to teach her a lesson she would not forget. Mrs Taweel took the tape to Mr Arafat and demanded that he call his minister to order. Instead, he accused her of declaring war on his ministers. Mrs Taweel claimed she was defending democracy. Mr Arafat, she says, shouted back: "I can prevent you writing about my ministers."

Now, she is thinking of going back to Paris. "There is no democracy," she told *The Independent*. "I came back to be with my people. There are a lot of things going on, and I want to speak out, but Arafat told me to close my mouth. So, I prefer not to stay ... I am very depressed, very frustrated."

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Milosevic ignores UN demand for ceasefire

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

AS NATO fine-tuned its plans yesterday for military intervention in Kosovo, the Yugoslav army, backed by artillery and air power, moved to crush the last pockets of armed resistance by ethnic Albanians in Serbia's insurgent southern province.

Only 12 hours earlier, a unanimous resolution of the United Nations Security Council had demanded an immediate ceasefire and the start of political negotiations between Slobodan Milosevic, the President of Yugoslavia, and the Albanian majority population in Kosovo. But apparently oblivious to the threats, the Serbian forces were closing in on the last stronghold of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

By midday, Serbian troops had captured a main road through the central Drenica region of Kosovo, splitting KLA forces in two and cutting off more than a dozen villages. Eyewitnesses spoke of jets roaring overhead, as columns of civilian refugees streamed southward in the direction of Albania and Macedonia.

Serb police, meanwhile, were reported to have arrested at least 200 Albanian men, whom they were holding at a factory in the area. Capturing the despair of the moment, one KLA fighter declared there was no escape from the Serbs all around. "We can't leave. We only live if we win, or if Nato threatens Milosevic to stop."

But last night Nato, though readying a potential strike force, had still not taken a final decision to intervene. Instead, alliance defence ministers meeting in Vilamoura, Portugal, delivered an "activation warning" that takes the 16-nation group closer than ever to military action, by lining up a multinational force to launch strikes at Yugoslav and Serb installations.

The driving pressure this time is coming from the Americans. Walter Slocombe, US Under-Secretary for Defense, told reporters that once Nato moved in, it would hit preselected military targets with "very, very effective and very, very strong blows", consisting almost certainly of an initial wave of cruise missile attacks, to be followed if necessary by a steadily escalating aerial bombardment to cripple Serb supply and communication lines.

But neither the latest Nato sabre-rattling nor the vote in New York seems to be greatly perturbing Mr Milosevic, who has seen off many a similar Western threat over the past few months.

As the crackdown continued fiercer than ever, Zivadin Jovanovic, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, described the UN resolution as "groundless and counter-productive". Totally ignoring the operations of his own army, he declared that force was not the way to solve the crisis.

In Belgrade, Mr Milosevic's ruling Socialist party issued a statement in which it "expressed bitterness" over the "continuing policies of double standards and pressure on our country, which gives direct and indirect support to Albanian separatists and terrorists".

The party praised the Serb security forces fighting the Albanians in Kosovo for what it called their "honourable and professional" work.

Despite explicit Russian objections and unspoken reservations among several alliance partners, Nato this time seems to have little choice but to act if Belgrade does not call a halt to the Kosovo offensive.

Not only would its own credibility be reduced to zero if its words were again revealed as empty bluster; it would probably have missed the final chance of averting a huge humanitarian disaster involving up to 300,000 refugees – 50,000 of them without shelter as the hard Balkan winter approaches.

In the eyes of the Albanian population it is already too late. "Half of Kosovo is already destroyed and burning," said an aide to the Kosovo Albanian political leader, Ibrahim Rugova. "By the time Nato gets round to doing anything, he'll [Mr Milosevic] have time to destroy the other half too."

A refugee in Otranto, Italy, yesterday. More than 350 have landed in the past two days

Clinton aide holds key to early deal

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

THE FUTURE of Bruce Lindsey, one of Bill Clinton's principal aides, is emerging as a crucial issue in attempts to build a deal between the White House and Congress.

The issue is an indication that whatever happens to the President in the Monica Lewinsky affair, Mr Clinton's foes are intent on pressing ahead with other investigations that could lead to criminal indictments for some of the Clinton allies.

It is also a sign that the Congress may want to examine not only the President's sexual misbehaviour and his alleged attempts at a cover-up, but the whole array of charges that stretch back to the Whitewater land deal.

Republicans want Mr Lindsey to testify before Kenneth Starr's grand jury, but he has argued that he is shielded by attorney-client privilege.

A court has rejected this claim, and it is pending before the Supreme Court. Until this issue is settled, there is no question of striking any deal to limit the impeachment process against the President, Republicans have told the White House.

Mr Clinton's supporters want to limit the time for this process and are holding out the possibility of accepting some lesser punishment than impeachment.

The response from Republicans in the House of Representatives has been cool, partly because they see no reason to hold back from impeachment. But they also see little interest in striking a deal until the White House co-operates on other issues, such as that of Mr Lindsey.

He is not a symbolic figure in this argument; as an old friend of the Clintons, he has been involved in a number of the other issues thatMr Starr is investigating.

Mr Starr continues to examine the Whitewater land deal; Travelgate, which involves the manipulation of jobs in the White House travel office; and Filegate, the alleged misuse of White House files.

He wants to prove a broader pattern of obstruction of justice by the White House, and Mr Lindsey could be a key witness.

The House judiciary committee has yet to establish the process for impeachment hearings, but is likely to do so within the next two weeks.

This would be followed by the hearings themselves, which would culminate in a decision on whether to impeach the President.

A decision on whether to begin hearings is likely on 9 October, committee aides said yesterday, but they would not start until 3 November, after the Congressional elections. That means that a final decision is unlikely before next year.

The committee will meet today to discuss the release of further documentation from the Starr inquiry.

Mr Starr sent a report and boxes of supporting documentation to the committee, but so far only a small percentage has been released.

The remaining evidence may include transcripts of Ms Lewinsky's conversations with her former friend, Linda Tripp, tapes of which have now become the subject of investigation after some were alleged to have been duplicated and edited.

The Republicans are sounding distinctly lukewarm about the next phase of releasing documents, partly because some – such as the Tripp tapes – may be seen as favourable to the President.

"I'm advised by staff that this isn't going to contain much sensational material. We're still reviewing over it," said the Republican Congressman Bill McCollum.

The White House is clearly recovering its confidence. Though a deal is still only a small possibility, Democrats in Congress are being mobilised to fight for the President and Mr Clinton has spoken to members of both parties in the past few days to build support.

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Miami hammers out storm warning

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Miami

THE SKY is blue, with only the slenderest bank of clouds at the horizon; the light as translucent as on the brightest tropical day. Yet everyone feels the menace. "It looks great out there," say the weather forecasters, now on every television and radio station. "Don't be deceived. Use these hours to buy in the basics; board up your windows. Then stay home."

Hurricane Georges has already brought devastation to the Caribbean, where 110 lives have been lost in the past week, most in St Kitts, Antigua and Cuba. Now it threatens southern Florida, starting with the Lower Keys, the chain of islands that is the closest US land to Cuba.

In Miami, the turquoise mass of water that always seems higher than the land is flecked with white edgings in places, even though, as yet, there are no waves. The palm branches are waving like the arms of a tightrope walker, as though to keep the trunks in balance. Those white clouds on the horizon are somehow aberrant; the shapes are wrong, and they are swelling as more banks build.

In South Beach, where every pastel deco building has its history, a few ocean-front cafés are crowded at mid-morning – crowded because the rest are closed. The banging of hammers is all round as workmen nail wooden boards across the plate-glass hotel fronts. A few carefree couples cross the road, beach mats under arm, frolicking in amazed delight that they have the whole expanse of white sand to themselves. But Route 41 is as busy with cars as in the rush hour. Urgently, but without panic, Miami Beach is preparing to abandon itself to the elements.

On local and national television, the recurrent map shows the pendulous shape of Florida, with the long strip of Cuba below like an underlining. In the intervals between the forecasts, the white catherine wheel with the red centre edges across the northern shore of Cuba. Occasionally its projected path is plotted by computer. It could move north across the Florida Keys and up towards the Florida Panhandle; it could move north-east, closer to Miami and the destructive trajectory of its predecessor Hurricane Andrew six years ago. Or it could sweep to the north and east, in a quarter-circle, and back out to sea.

But at the National Hurricane Centre, judiciously sited, since Hurricane Andrew, further inland beyond the western fringe of Miami, the experts fear, and plan for the worst. The worst would be the first, slamming into the Lower and Middle Keys, then heading to the densely populated Panhandle, which is just recovering from a series of tropical storms. That would extend the relief effort on three fronts. Moving over the warm water of the Gulf would also give the hurricane a chance to pick up speed. With winds of 120mph already forecast, that is the greatest fear.

Teams are already in the US possession of Puerto Rico, which was one of the first places to be struck by Georges. They are readied for southern Florida, but to extend themselves as well to north-western Florida is asking much. Reinforcements are already being drafted in, with instructions to ensure they get here before the force of the wind halts even military flights.

By midday, the Keys were warned they were the next target: the causeway, the single link with the mainland, would be closed at 4pm and a curfew would be in force from 9pm.

In the previous 24 hours almost 100,000 people have been evacuated, most by car along the single dual carriageway that links Key West at the south-western tip with Miami. Only a few stalwarts, and reporters, remain. A vast emergency shelter has been set up to receive them on the university campus that houses the hurricane centre. The Keys are too low-lying to have their own safe shelters.

The experts continue their warnings. "To everyone of you folks living on the Keys, I urge you to get out now; you still have two hours," says Jody Jerrold, head of the hurricane centre. 'After that, if you've made a bad decision, you're on your own."

The spokesman for the centre has apocalyptic details in his arsenal of warnings. "Hurricanes bring out the varmint," he says, "you'll get alligators, scorpions and snakes coming out seeking higher ground."

In Miami, people have a little longer to prepare, and maybe less to fear. The evacuation here is still voluntary, but most of those who would leave have gone. Many of those remaining are the poor, who have no choice. The local paper says hopefully that the durability of mobile homes has improved since Hurricane Andrew.

■ British holiday operators said yesterday they had evacuated British holiday-makers from south Florida. Flights to Orlando were continuing as normal, and passengers were being advised to stay away from the area most at risk.

Santo Domingo, a shanty town in the Dominican Republic, after hurricane Georges had passed over the Caribbean AFP

Greens see Red to win Bonn votes

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

OF ALL the scare stories that Helmut Kohl's party has been spreading about the opposition in these elections, none has been more effective than the "Green peril". "You may think Gerhard Schröder is a reasonable man," runs the not-so-subliminal message. "But have you looked at his coalition partners lately?"

"Red-Green" may be the magic formula for toppling Helmut Kohl in Sunday's elections, but to many voters it spells disaster. Though they have abandoned many of their starry-eyed goals, Petra Kelly's heirs retain their knack for shocking middle Germany.

There was a moment in the summer, when the party was advocating the tripling of petrol prices to the equivalent of £7 a gallon, and simultaneously calling for punitive levies on charter flights to the south.

There is no better way of losing votes in Germany than threatening the two national obsessions: driving and holidays in the sun. Within weeks, the Greens' poll rating plunged from 12 points to six, where it has languished ever since.

In spite of that débâcle, the party will again scrape into parliament, with perhaps 6 or 7 per cent of the votes.

Should the Social Democrats emerge with the largest number of seats on Sunday, the Greens will be offering their hand in marriage. Joschka Fischer, the Green parliamentary leader, may become Germany's new foreign minister.

To most Germans, that does not bear thinking about. But in truth, Mr Fischer and his pacifist colleagues would have little problem sending German troops abroad to, say, the Balkans. And in the economic domain, the party has come a long way since its pioneering days 20 years ago. The goal of "zero growth" – economic stagnation for the sake of the environment – is but a distant memory.

What remains of the original dream is the love of bicycles and hatred of cars, unyielding hostility to nuclear power, and the pledge to impose an "environmental tax" on fuel.

Mr Fischer may have trouble controlling his troops in parliament, and could not rely on all of them supporting a Red-Green government. For this reason, it is a common assumption in Germany that a Red-Green coalition would need a majority of greater than 10 to function.

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A supporter embracing Azizah Ismail (centre right), Anwar Ibrahim's wife, at the family's residence in Kuala Lumpur AP

Anwar's tapes shown on TV

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Kuala Lumpur

IN A SERIES of secret video tapes, recorded hours before his arrest, the Malaysian opposition leader, Anwar Ibrahim, accused the Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, of using government projects to enrich his friends and family and compared him to the fallen Indonesian dictator, Suharto.

The tapes were broadcast last night on the cable television channel CNBC, provoking furious denials from Dr Mahathir, who is facing the most serious popular challenge in his 17 years as leader. For the fourth day since they arrested Mr Anwar last Sunday, police failed to produce him in court, and warned of stern action if there was any repeat of this week's demonstrations against Dr Mahathir.

Mr Anwar served for six years as finance minister and later deputy prime minister before being sacked three weeks ago for alleged sexual indecency. He has not been seen by his family or lawyers since his arrest. "My sin was that I wanted to protect truth, justice and the interests of the people. The reason why they are afraid of me is that I know too much about their secrets," he says in the recordings.

For the first time, he named the projects in which he alleges corruption. He said that the construction of a new airport and deals involving the state oil company, Petronas, were "done to maintain the interests of his [Dr Mahathir's] cronies", including his son, Mirzah. He also claimed that members of the ruling United Malay National Organisation siphoned off party money, but that Dr Mahathir ignored the matter when it was brought to his attention.

Kuala Lumpur was calm yesterday, and there has been no recurrence of the disturbances of Sunday and Monday. The latest accusations will have limited impact within Malaysia because they have gone almost entirely unreported.

The Malaysian media is closely monitored by the government and this summer two newspaper editors were sacked for apparently favouring Mr Anwar. In the past few days, the government has launched bitter attacks on foreign reporters, whom it accuses of misrepresenting the situation.

Dr Mahathir responded with sarcasm when the latest allegations were put to him. "Of course, I'm remaining in power because of my cronies and my family, and you are free to air these every half an hour, and you can tell lies to the whole world, and influence the whole world against us ... You can tell lies – go on, I don't care."

India seeks to rein in rogue state

BY PETER POPHAM in Delhi

THE 90 MILLION people of Bihar were in effect without a government yesterday, as India's President, K R Narayanan, considered whether to accede to the central government's recommendation to impose "President's Rule" on the impoverished north Indian state.

It is unlikely that many Biharis noticed the difference. The state has been a byword for lawlessness for years.

The central government's case is that Article 356, which transfers power in a state from the elected government to the President, is necessary to end Bihar's "bad governance, social anarchy, rank casteism and criminalisation of politics".

Racked by extravagant corruption scandals, ruled by the uneducated wife of a clownish populist, himself implicated in scandal, Bihar is the Indian nightmare at its most garish and absurd. Government in the state is an opportunity for limitless plunder, while society is as an endless, low-level civil war between castes. These depressing phenomena, encountered in many parts of the country, find their highest expression in Bihar.

For the past eight years, Bihar has been ruled by a pudgy, tub-thumping, mop-haired, betel-chewing figure called Laloo Prasad Yadav. Notoriously averse to office work, he has allowed Bihar's already rickety administration to go to ruin. What he is good at is pleasing a crowd, rousing popular indignation and calling a spade a spade.

Mr Yadav's early moment of glory came when he halted a Hindu nationalist *yatra* (procession) that was traversing the country, whipping up communal sentiment, at the state border. For this he earned his secularist stripes, and the votes of Muslims as well as the middle-ranking castes in the state.

In power, however, he has proved staggeringly unscrupulous. His fellow Yadavs – a cow-herding caste – have been rewarded with an extraordinary number of government posts. Despite his victim rhetoric, he has made tacit alliances with high-caste feudal landlords, and under his rule caste massacres have become commonplace. The worst was in June 1997, when 64 Dalits, so-called "Untouchables", were shot dead in their village by members of Ranbir Sena, a private army sponsored by the big landlords.

Even in the Indian context, Laloo Yadav's behaviour has been so outrageous that his fall has been long predicted. Last year he was rarely out of the headlines: a scandal involving the stealing of tens of millions of rupees, supposedly intended to buy fodder for non-existent cattle, was exposed, and Laloo was universally believed to be at the centre of it. Finally he went to "prison" – a well-appointed government guest house. As he could not rule Bihar from prison, he appointed his wife, Rabri, in his place. He was later released on bail, but could be back in jail at any time, and Rabri's puppet government has continued in power.

The pity of it is that there is nothing inevitable about Bihar's poverty: the state has 40 per cent of India's mineral wealth, but little of it is exploited.

Ruled by politicians with a modicum of maturity and restraint, the state of Bihar could be transformed. But any opportunity Laloo might have had to effect the transformation is past. The national government has pushed through a plan to cut the state in two. The mineral-rich southern portion will become the new state of Vananchal. Northern Bihar, the Laloo heartland, is likely to continue to wallow in poverty.

IN BRIEF

Britons flee fighting in Lesotho

MORE THAN 100 Britons have left Lesotho in armed convoys, the Foreign Office said yesterday, after Southern African troops moved in to help quell unrest and bloody battles broke out. The Foreign Office advises against travelling to the Southern African kingdom.

Belgians halt deportations

BELGIUM has suspended the deportation of asylum-seekers from Brussels airport after a Nigerian woman died following a struggle with police. Two policemen have been charged with assault after the death on Tuesday of Semira Adamu, a 20-year-old woman who resisted police efforts to get her on a Togo-bound plane.

Habibie moves to curb protests

INDONESIA'S PRESIDENT, BJ Habibie, yesterday clamped down on mounting anti-government protests by ordering the military to take strong action against looters and rioters. Hundreds of houses and shops – many belonging to country's the ethnic Chinese minority – have been burnt recently.

Students drink poisoned tea

A RESEARCH assistant and eight college students were taken ill after drinking cadmium-laced tea at their university lab in western Japan, police said yesterday.

An elderly pensioner watches a woman buy a fur coat (soft gold) in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia *Ilya Naymushin*

Never mind ethics, feel the warmth

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

IT WAS a bracing autumn morning in Moscow, yet three young women were standing outside in nothing more than underpants, fluffy ears and a film of yellow stage paint, daubed with black spots.

Billing themselves as "exotic leopards", the trio had arrived to protest outside a fur fair that opened in Moscow yesterday. But they found themselves unexpectedly confronted by 80 Russian photographers, cameramen and correspondents who trapped them in a tight circle.

The advance publicity had promised nudity, and the hacks weren't going home without it. "Drop it, drop it," the press demanded, referring to a banner that was covering the protesters' upper torsos. The women refused, remarking that the banner's slogan – "Only Animals Should Wear Fur" – was the whole point.

A few years ago, such scenes would have been unimaginable in Russia. When anti-fur protesters pulled a similar stunt in Red Square two years ago, they ended up spending eight hours behind bars. This time their protest outside the Expo-Centre beside the Moscow River was watched by a knot of Interior Ministry police who looked on mildly amused.

But not all attitudes have changed, which is why the "leopards" were there. Russians are as wedded as ever to the fur coats. They sweep aside ethical complaints by arguing that it would be impossible to survive in minus 40C without burying themselves beneath a soft layer of fox, sable or mink.

Such is the demand that six tons of skins are imported each year into Russia, supplementing the output of nearly 100 big fur farms. "Ethical arguments are all right for foreigners, but here they are not taken seriously," said one of the on-looking policemen. "The conditions here are completely different."

Changing that view is a huge undertaking in a country in which almost everyone, at the very least, owns a fur hat, and where the population can instantly tell one another's social standing from what sits on top of their heads.

Yet the protesters, from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), were hopeful. "It is the ultimate bastion," said Canadian Toni Vernelli, 26, who was one of the trio, "but it is falling".

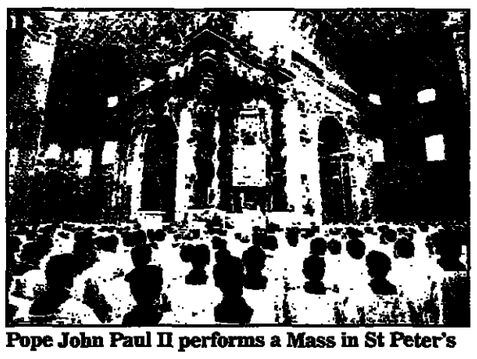
But is it? Prices in Russia rose by 43 per cent in the first half of this month. Many thousands of people have been laid off by collapsed banks and businesses, including a swathe from Moscow's cosmopolitan and middle-class generation of twenty-somethings. The economy is a mess, and certain to worsen.

In spite of this, yesterday's exhibition was teeming with visitors, picking their way from $5,000 mink to $8,000 sables. "It is like feasting during a plague," remarked Yelena Sukovkina, 32, another of the protesters, as the guests filed into the Expo past her.

Russians claim that when crises erupt, those with money to spare do two things: They buy gold, because it is unlikely to devalue, and they buy fur – a luxury asset that they call *myagkoye zoloto* (soft gold).

It will, it seems, take more than a melt-down to get Russians out of fur. "Winters will always be cold. All women love a natural fur, and they always will," said Marina Radina, 36, browsing through the racks.

Even so, the Peta protesters can claim one small victory: Two months ago a shop opened in Moscow selling fake furs.



Pope John Paul II performs a Mass in St Peter's

Holy City's low life feels the pinch

EUROPEAN TIMES
ROME

AS THE sun edges down on the second millennium, the shadow cast by the dome of Saint Peter's grows longer, and the pariahs in the penumbra are beginning to feel the pinch.

"It's the same old story," complains Vladimir Luxuria, doyen(ne) of Rome's cross-dressers: "They've got it in for transsexuals, and prostitutes, and gays. And it can only get worse. The nearer we get to the Jubilee, the harder they're going to crack down."

It's nothing new. In past centuries, the Holy city's urban outcasts have been ferried to Rome's more squalid outskirts by the cart-load each time the city gears up for a sacred celebration. For the 1985 Holy Year, red-light cinemas, which for decades had clustered cosily around Catholicism's heart, found that their licences had miraculously expired, and were never to open their doors again.

But the 2000 Holy Year will be a mammoth event. More than 30 million pilgrims are expected to head for Rome. There is a lot at stake here. Rome's reputation as city of virtue, or vice, will be tested, and the secular and spiritual authorities are taking no chances.

"They want to make Rome into something that it has never been," says Ms Luxuria. "They want to make it into a holy city." "They" are the members of the Rome town council, under what Ms Luxuria alleges is "clearly very strong pressure from across the Tiber" in the Vatican. "Throughout history, holy years have been a show of political force. It's the Vatican's way of making it clear that in spite of everything, they're still in charge. It has always been that way and it still is."

Given the doggedness with which Rome's spiritual black sheep are being pursued by an administration that is left-leaning and supposedly open-minded – Mayor Francesco Rutelli briefly transformed himself into a gay icon when he attended a Gay Pride march – you can't help feeling that the willowy, raven-haired spokesperson for Rome's transsexuals has a point.

"Take Monte Caprino," says Ms Luxuria. Until recently a blind eye was turned to what went on at night in the bushes of this ill-lit, unkempt area at the foot of the Capitoline hill. But Rome's traditional gay stamping ground has now been cut down, lit up and and fenced off, much to the chagrin of the community.

"First they say at least part of it will be left open. Then they say that they're going to lock the lot up at 2am every night. I mean, they can't say one thing one day and another the next. Unless, of course, the Vatican is forcing them to."

Monte Caprino is only the tip of an iceberg. Rome has revived some little-used laws in the war against prostitution. Both the demand and the supply sides of the world's oldest trade have been hit with the sudden vogue for fines for neglecting to use seatbelts, which the police are now imposing on those they find parked in dark hideaways around the ancient city walls. As for the transsexual prostitutes with which Rome abounds, they are being dragged off to the police stations and charged with "concealing their true identity".

"It's a law from 1931, a Fascist law, introduced to stop masked bands from trying to react to the Fascist regime. It has quite obviously been resurrected just to get at us," says Ms Luxuria, who has organised a series of public protests. "What we do is turn up in jackets and ties, then rip them off, revealing our true selves in women's clothes beneath."

With their right to be alternative under attack, "we're prepared to go to any lengths to stop the persecution," says Ms Luxuria, who is working hard to entice the world's homosexuals to Rome for the 2000 International Gay Pride march.

If the Vatican thinks that trimmed bushes and fences are going to purify the Eternal City, it can think again, she adds. "If they lock up Monte Caprino we will just stay inside. No, on second thoughts we won't. We'll just shift our activities across to Saint Peter's square."

ANNE HANLEY

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098
E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Kingfisher takes control of But

KINGFISHER, the B&Q and Woolworths retailer, is to make an offer for the whole of But, the French electricals and furniture group, after increasing its stake in the business to 61.7 per cent yesterday. Kingfisher has paid Fr300 per share for the remaining 35.7 per cent stake held by the Venturini family, valuing the stake at £51.5m. Kingfisher will offer the same price for the remaining shares.

Ionica rescue on the cards

IONICA, the troubled wireless telecoms company, yesterday revealed it is in talks with a strategic investor which could lead to it being rescued "in the near future." Ionica said some holders of its £300m of bonds had indicated they were willing to exchange the bonds for shares in the investor, thereby opening the way for a takeover. The company named Anthony Coleman (pictured), former finance director of Yorkshire Water, as chairman.

Ionica warned that any deal was likely to be struck at less than the company's current share price. Ionica revealed that losses for the year to March quadrupled to £173m. In the quarter to June, losses deepened to £43m from £30m in the same period of the previous year. Ionica shares closed down 0.5p at 22p.

Diageo signals more job cuts

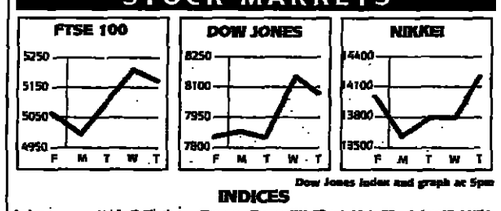
DIAGEO yesterday signalled further job cuts in addition to the 3,000 already announced, though none will be in the UK. The food and drinks giant reported its maiden set of full-year figures, which were scarred by the effects of the Asian crisis and the strong pound. Cost savings arising from the merger will be £290m rather than the £195m previously stated. However, the group warned that profits at its Pillsbury food business will be lower in the first half of the current year. Diageo shares fell 21p to 497p.

Investment, page 23

Irish hotel groups in talks

JURYS HOTEL Group, one of Ireland's biggest hoteliers, yesterday said it was in early talks to acquire rival Doyle Hotels. The company said the two groups would have an excellent fit with a combined 28 hotels and inns and 5,000 rooms.

STOCK MARKETS

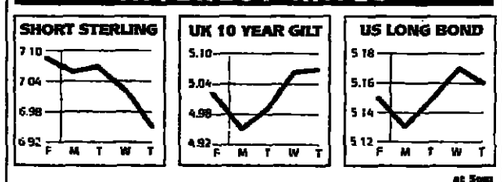


Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

INDICES

Index	Price	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5167.60	-47.10	-0.90	6183.70	4382.80	3.75
FTSE 250	4580.30	16.10	0.35	5970.90	4428.30	4.93
FTSE 350	2464.10	-17.20	-0.69	2969.10	2141.80	3.95
FTSE All Share	2388.23	-15.74	-0.66	2886.52	2106.59	3.96
FTSE SmallCap	2032.80	0.20	0.01	2793.80	2032.50	4.16
FTSE Fledgling	1143.60	2.30	0.20	1517.10	1140.20	4.47
FTSE AIM	859.10	3.40	0.40	1146.90	859.70	1.35
FTSE EBLOC 100	845.71	-12.66	-1.48	...	...	...
Dow Jones	8077.68	-75.95	-0.93	9367.84	6971.32	1.85
Nikkei	14205.78	415.97	3.02	18439.76	13521.13	1.09
Hang Seng	7834.61	330.22	4.40	15242.65	6544.79	5.18
Dax	4646.25	-53.14	-1.13	6217.83	3487.24	3.41

INTEREST RATES

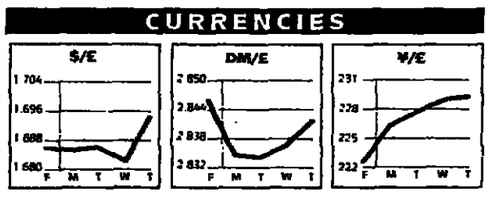


at 5pm

MONEY MARKET RATES / BOND YIELDS

Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.38	0.08	7.00	-0.52	5.07	-1.54	4.75	-1.78
US	5.44	-0.28	5.16	-0.81	4.64	...	5.16	...
Japan	0.43	-0.15	0.46	-0.18	0.91	-1.25	1.44	-1.38
Germany	3.48	0.17	3.59	-0.14	3.95	-1.57	4.91	-1.26

CURRENCIES



POUND

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6947	+1.52c	1.6110
D-Mark	2.8419	+0.76pf	2.8575
Yen	229.56	+¥0.25	194.42
£ index	103.10	+0.10	100.30

DOLLAR

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Sterling	0.5901	-0.53p	0.6207
D-Mark	1.6773	-1.00pf	1.7732
Yen	135.10	-¥1.40	120.35
$ index	109.50	-0.70	105.10

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil ($)	14.57	-0.03	18.71
Gold ($)	292.85	3.00	323.25
Silver ($)	5.06	0.18	4.72

	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next Rpt
GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Sept
RPI	163.70	3.30	158.47	Sept
Base Rates	7.50	7.00		

*at 5pm

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

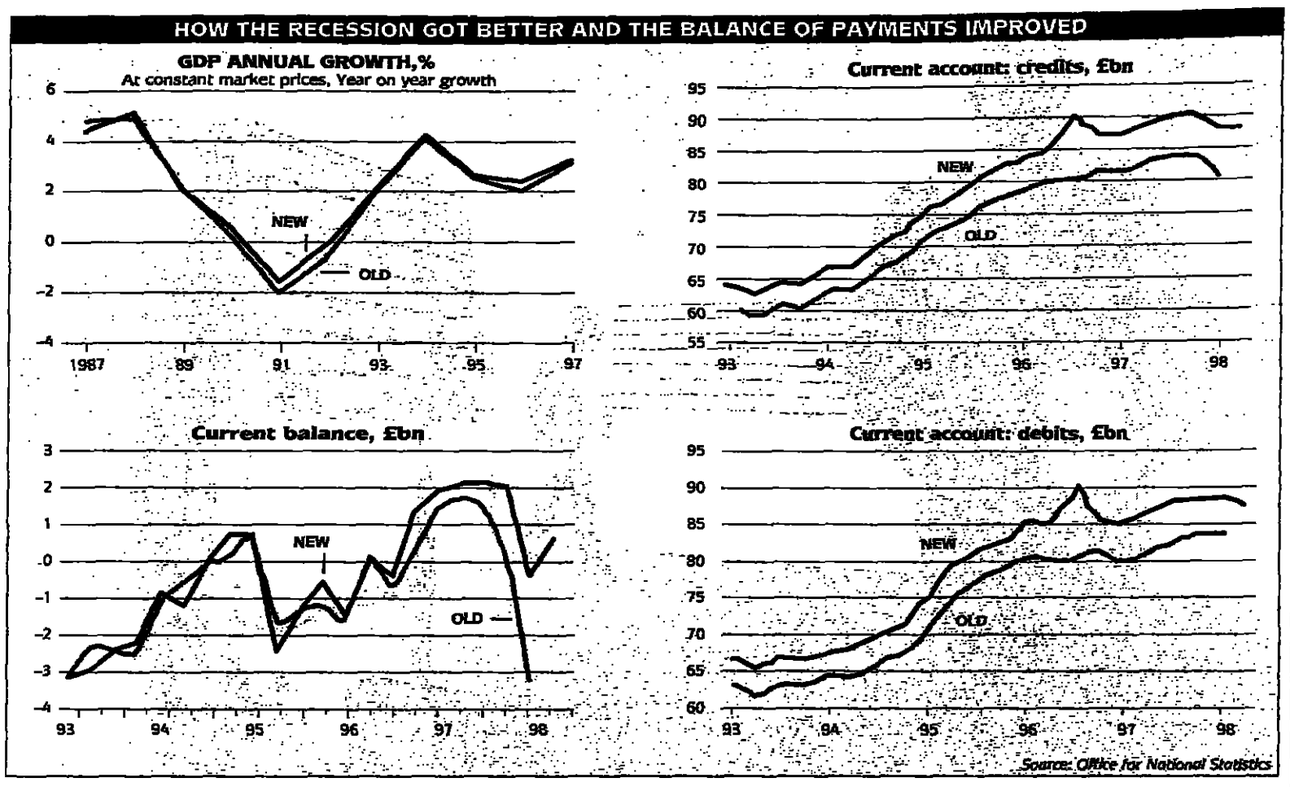
TOURIST RATES

Australia ($)	2.7903	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.40
Austria (schillings)	19.27	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0925
Belgium (francs)	56.69	New Zealand ($)	3.2577
Canada ($)	2.4812	Norway (krone)	12.33
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8095	Portugal (escudos)	279.24
Denmark (krone)	10.49	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1213
Finland (markka)	8.4056	Singapore ($)	2.7590
France (francs)	9.2084	Spain (pesetas)	232.30
Germany (marks)	2.7541	South Africa (rands)	9.3982
Greece (drachma)	471.18	Sweden (krone)	13.02
Hong Kong ($)	12.62	Switzerland (francs)	2.2841
Ireland (punts)	1.0945	Thailand (bahts)	60.67
Indian (rupees)	65.64	Turkey (liras)	447443
Israel (shekels)	5.9554	USA ($)	1.6409
Italy (lira)	2725		
Japan (yen)	224.93		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1213		
Malta (lira)	0.6135		

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Government rewrites UK economic history



BY LEA PATERSON

ECONOMIC HISTORY was rewritten yesterday with the release of new UK national accounts designed to bring us into line with Europe and improve the accuracy of official statistics.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said the UK economy has been performing significantly better – particularly in the last decade – than had been thought. Economic growth was stronger, the trade deficit smaller and investment record better than the old official figures indicated.

The net effect of the revisions – which affected records as far back as 1948 – was to raise the level of UK economic growth by an average of 0.2 per cent a year. The most marked improvement came in the last decade, where there were substantial data changes.

The new figures show that the 1991/92 recession finished six months earlier than first thought. Economic growth measured by gross domestic product (GDP) switched from negative to positive in the third quarter of 1992 rather than the first quarter of 1993. As a result, the British economy expanded by 0.1 per cent in 1992. Economists thought the economy had shrunk by 0.5 per cent over the year.

The 1991/92 recession was shallower than first thought, and the subsequent recovery stronger. Using the old method, the sharpest fall in UK growth was in the second quarter of 1991, when the economy contracted by 2.9 per cent. Using the new method, however, the economy contracted by only 2.5 per cent. According to the original ONS numbers, the economy grew by 2.7 per cent in 1995 and 2.2 per cent in 1996. But in yesterday's release, the growth figures were 2.8 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively. The cumulative effect of the changes meant that 1997 GDP, calculated at current market prices, was more than £15bn higher than previously thought.

Recent data on the UK's balance of payments was sharply revised. The current account deficit in the first quarter of the year, for example, was revised down sharply from £3.2bn to £0.5bn. In the second quarter of the year, the current account recorded a surplus of £600m, to the surprise of City analysts.

Dharshini David at HSBC Securities said: "This does suggest that the the Asian crisis and the strong pound did not have quite as much of a detrimental impact as previously thought."

The ONS said there were a variety of reasons for the changes, including the legal requirement to make UK national accounts more like those of our European partners. The so-called European System of Accounts (1995) is different to the current UK system in numerous ways. For example, under ESA, mineral exploration is classified as "investment" not "expenditure", as is computer software. Other changes were designed to improve the reliability of official data, for example by helping eliminate data gaps and double-counting.

Although the new accounts make interesting reading for economic historians, the figures are unlikely to have substantial implications for today's policymakers, according to City economists.

Second-quarter GDP growth was little altered by the revisions. Quarter-on-quarter growth was left unchanged at 0.5 per cent, while the year-on-year rate was revised up 0.4 per cent to 2.6 per year. Manufacturing growth over the quarter was revised up from 0.1 per cent to 0.3 per cent.

Outlook, page 19

US banks cut rates after Greenspan hint

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

US BANKS began to cut their interest rates yesterday, responding to the signals from the Federal Reserve that a loosening of monetary policy is on the way.

Southwest Bank of St Louis, often ahead of the pack, lowered its prime rate from 8.5 per cent to 8 per cent, a marker that others are likely to follow.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, gave the world a very broad hint on Wednesday that a cut in the Fed's benchmark Federal Funds rate was likely when its decision-making body meets next week.

He cited the stock market decline, the crisis in Asia and their likely restraining effect on inflation as reasons why the central bank was now less concerned about the risks of price rises and more worried about slowing growth.

Figures released yesterday show that the US economy is indeed slowing down. Growth in gross domestic product slowed down to an annual rate of 1.8 per cent in the year's second quarter, revised figures showed, down from a white-hot 5.5 per cent in the first quarter.

Though this is an increase from earlier estimates of 1.4 per cent and 1.6 per cent, it indicates that growth for the year as a whole is likely to be around 2 per cent, down from the rate of roughly 4 per cent of the past two years.

The factors slowing the economy were principally destocking, reversing the inventory growth which had built up in the previous six months, and a decline in net exports.

But business investment powered ahead nearly 19 per cent, housing shot up by 15 per cent and consumer spending was resilient, showing a rise of 6.1 per cent.

Mandelson orders power shake-up

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday opened the way for an overhaul of the electricity industry by approving PowerGen's £1.9bn takeover of East Midlands Electricity, provided that it disposes of 4,000 megawatts of generating capacity.

The move, which PowerGen has agreed to, coincided with a new drive to bolster the renewable energy market, with the green light given to new projects worth £1bn.

Approving the PowerGen-East Midlands deal, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Peter Mandelson, said vertical integration between generators and supply companies was "not in itself objectionable". This was taken as an indication that the Government will look favourably on more consolidation, including the Scottish Hydro-Electric merger with Southern Electric.

It also emerged that Mr Mandelson took his decision against the advice of both the director-general of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, and electricity regulator Professor Stephen Littlechild. Mr Bridgeman recommended referring the PowerGen deal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Professor Littlechild agreed that competition concerns could be overcome through undertakings rather than a referral, but recommended PowerGen have to sell off 6,000 megawatts, or three coal-fired stations.

Other conditions imposed on PowerGen include an early end to its "earn-out" agreement with Eastern, which bought 2,000 megawatts of plant from PowerGen in an earlier disposal, and ring-fencing East Midlands' supply business.

PowerGen shares slid on the announcement but recovered. National Power shares fell 3.5 per cent on fears that it would be forced to divest up to 6,000 megawatts of coal capacity.

PowerGen welcomed Mr Mandelson's announcement and indicated that it expected to raise about £1bn from the plant sales. It has received 12 expressions of interest from UK and US groups, including British Energy, Centrica, Southern Electric, Scottish Hydro and Mission Energy, which took over the National Grid's pumped storage stations.

The Government yesterday also gave the go-ahead for renewable energy projects worth £1bn in its drive to cut emissions, but indicated that it would stand by its ban on gas-fired stations.

The move will more than double the electricity produced by wind farms, hydro stations, landfill sites and other sources from 2 per cent this year to 5 per cent by early next century.

John Battle, the Energy Minister, has approved 261 new projects involving almost 1,200 megawatts of capacity under the latest Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO). This is the largest increase in the renewable programme since the government-backed scheme to encourage alternative energy sources was launched in 1990.

The NFFO sets the amount of electricity regional suppliers have to buy from non-fossil fuel generators and lets them pass on the higher costs to consumers. This year the extra cost of the scheme will be about £116m, the same as last year.

The price of power generated from the latest projects averages 2.71p a unit, compared with up to 9p a unit when the NFFO first began and a current pool price of 2.67p a unit. Mr Battle said the 261 new projects would increase overall electricity charges by £16m to £23m.

Environmental groups welcomed the move. Friends of the Earth's energy campaigner, Dr Patrick Green, said it dispelled doubts about the viability of renewable energy.

Outlook, page 19

Oftel attacks BT on phone choice

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

BRITISH TELECOM is under pressure to open up its local network to competitors in a move that could lead to a huge increase in choice for residential telephone users.

One option under consideration is that rival companies be allowed to install their equipment in BT's exchanges, allowing them to offer services such as high-speed Internet access and home shopping to domestic customers.

The move by the telecoms watchdog signals a renewed determination by Oftel to crack down on BT. The watchdog yesterday ruled that BT should share its directory information with other companies in an attempt to open up the market for directory enquiry services. Oftel also cautioned BT for unfairly trying to poach Internet users from rival operators.

However, Oftel is considering more far reaching steps. Next month it will publish a consultation paper proposing that BT be required to unbundle its local loop business – the part of its network that runs from the local exchange to the customer's door – to other telecoms operators.

The proposal will boost the range of services rivals can offer. At the moment BT is required to carry its competitors' calls on its network in return for a fixed charge. However, choice is limited by the ageing technology still used by most of BT's network, which means telecoms companies wanting to offer high-speed data communications have to lay their own cables.

The paper is a response by David Edmonds, Oftel's new director-general, to worries that residential customers have little choice of telecoms operator. The cable companies have effectively stopped building out their networks. Meanwhile Ionica, the wireless operator which had hoped to take on BT, is close to bankruptcy.

Chris Godsmark, telecoms analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, said: "The fact that options like this are being considered is a sign that BT has been successful in protecting its share of the local loop."

Oftel is also responding to hints that the European Commission may decide to open up local telecoms markets across the Continent.

An Oftel spokesman said: "We are coming out with a very open consultation just to see what people think."

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

EXPECTATIONS of lower interest rates gave shares an initial fillip, but it proved short lived. At one time Footsie was up 107 points, but in busy trading it relapsed to end 47.1 down at 5,167.6 as investors fretted over the US hedge-fund rescue and its impact on New York. Barclays, one of the banks aiding the fund, fell 35p to 1,065p.

Imperial Chemical Industries was the day's major casualty, off 37p to a seven-year low of 450p on worries that it may be forced to cut its dividend.

Derek Pain, page 23

NEW YORK

US STOCKS fell after the near-collapse of hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management raised concern about the health of the financial system. JP Morgan and other banks that lend money to hedge funds led the decline. The Dow Jones fell 72.61, or 0.9 per cent, to 8081.55 in early afternoon trading.

"There's a credit crisis going on around the world, and it was brought home to us in spades by the bailout," said Henry Cavanna, a managing director and money manager at JP Morgan.

TOKYO

JAPAN'S STOCKS recorded their steepest rise in three weeks after a surge on Wall Street boosted hopes of a US interest-rate cut.

"It's buying by association," said one manager. "It's not as if lower US rates will affect exporters' bottom lines any time soon, but some blue chips had been sold rather low and Wall Street provided an easy excuse to go back to them."

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose by 415.97 points, or 3.02 per cent, to 14,205.78. The market was closed on Wednesday for a holiday marking the first day of autumn.

HONG KONG

THE Hang Seng Index posted its biggest rise in two weeks, trading up 339.89 points, or 4.6 per cent, to 7,844. The advance was led by HSBC Holdings as hints of a US interest-rate cut spurred bank and property stocks.

Hong Kong rates track the US's as the currency is pegged to the US dollar, and lower local rates will encourage home purchases. "We're going to have a little rally," said Terence Mahony of TCW Asia. "The big question is: if the Fed does cut rates, how much will they cut it?"

FRANKFURT

SHARES CLOSED lower, brought down by heavy losses in the banking sector and a weaker Wall Street. The Xetra DAX closed at 4,611.34, down 111.62, while in floor trade, the DAX closed at 4,646.25, down 53.14.

News that UBS had called an afternoon press conference caused speculation that it concerned the default of the New York Capital Management hedge fund for which UBS acted as agent. "The potential ramifications of this had a negative effect on German banking stocks," a trader said.

The hedge fund's time could be up

OUTLOOK

REGULATORS, market pundits and policymakers alike have been warning about the activities of hedge fund operators for as long as anyone cares to remember.

Concern has been expressed in three ways. Regulators were worried because hedge funds are unregulated. Market pundits were concerned because hedge funds are high-risk enterprises which because of the leverage they apply in markets pose a significant risk to the health of the financial system as a whole. And finally, the politicians are drawn in because hedge funds are seen as the ultimate market speculators whose activities are often blamed for speculative booms and subsequent busts.

None of these warnings seem to have stopped some of the world's best known banking names – including our own dearly beloved Barclays – becoming involved with John Meriwether's Long Term Capital Management, either as lenders or investors – and presumably a string of other hedge funds too. As it happens, LTCM was regarded as one of the safer hedge funds, so heaven knows what's going to happen to the rest.

Every business cycle comes to an end for a different set of reasons. If bankers could anticipate them, then there would be no cycle. Even so, those caught up in LTCM and other hedge funds really only have themselves to blame for the losses now being chalked up. Anyone that comes offering 30 per cent-plus returns a year cannot be for real.

Inevitably the hedge fund débâcle will prompt calls both for a regulatory crackdown and for the activities of hedge funds to be made more transparent.

But as ever, the politicians are several steps behind the market. Nobody in their right mind is going to lend to or invest in these things after what's just happened. The hedge fund's time is probably already up, with or without regulatory action.

PowerGen

PETER MANDELSON is reported to be in favour of transferring responsibility for merger decisions away from ministers and into the hands of an independent competition authority. Yet the latest decision from the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry suggests he is less keen on practising what he preaches.

Both the Director General of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, and the electricity regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, had reservations about allowing the PowerGen-East Midlands merger through.

The OFT recommended that the deal be packed off to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Professor Littlechild felt that, while undertakings would be sufficient to overcome the competition worries, the minimum requirement was the disposal of 6,000 megawatts of generating capacity.

Mr Mandelson has waved the deal through and allowed PowerGen to get away with selling only 4,000 megawatts – the equivalent of two power stations. This is one more than its chairman Ed Wallis had in mind but one less than Professor Littlechild deemed necessary to create a competitive market.

If Mr Mandelson is going to ignore one set of advice and split the difference in respect of another, it is worth asking what the regulators are there for.

Mr Mandelson was already on shaky ground since it is known he was lobbied by PowerGen over the East Midlands deal before he took up his new post. Nor is his position helped by the fact that the lobbying was done by GPC, the company that employed the Mandelson acolyte Derek Draper until Lobbygate forced him to earn a living elsewhere.

There may be persuasive arguments as to why it is now right to restructure the electricity industry into a series of large integrated players which generate, distribute and supply power. Certainly, they have more of a chance of making domestic competition work than if the existing regional suppliers are allowed to sign a non-aggression pact and sit back on their local franchises.

But Mr Mandelson needs not only to be whiter than white, but also to be seen as such. There are other awkward competition decisions looming for him – such as the sale of British Airways slots and the Murdoch bid for Man United. The sooner he relieves himself of responsibility for such matters, the better.

BNFL

SLOWLY BUT surely, the Government is edging towards formal announcement of the privatisation of British Nuclear Fuels. The appointment of KPMG to advise ministers on how to introduce private money into the company is the surest sign yet that any lingering ideological objection to a sale is being quietly buried. These days we have to call it public/private partnership, of course, but in truth what is being considered is a good old fashioned state sell-off.

Obviously, this is going to be highly controversial. Even the last administration hesitated when it came to selling BNFL. For New Labour to embark on such a project might therefore seem a trifle foolhardy. BNFL's business is a sensitive one and it is never far from the environmental debate. Furthermore, the integration of the Magnox power stations into the core business of producing and reprocessing nuclear fuel creates potentially vast decommissioning liabilities that the private sector won't want to have anything to do with.

It also gives BNFL control of and responsibility for Nyrex, which is charged with storing and ultimately disposing of nuclear waste. Forget the political flak Peter Mandelson is going to get for suggesting the idea; all this is going to present even the City's finest with quite a privatisation challenge.

But there's no reason it shouldn't or can't be done. Indeed, BNFL's acquisition this summer of Westinghouse's nuclear reprocessing plants and related businesses in the US makes the strongest possible case for doing it. The Westinghouse acquisition demonstrates both that it is possible to have private sector ownership of such assets and that this has become a global, commercial business, perhaps best managed by a global enterprise.

Mr Mandelson is right to be contemplating privatisation, even if it is going to give him more than a touch of trouble with the brown rice-eating brigade.

New accounts

WELL THERE'S a thing. The last recession wasn't nearly as bad as you thought. It started later, wasn't as deep, and it finished earlier than the official statistics said at the time. What's more, the Clarke boom was even more of a boom than then recorded, while the present situation isn't as gloomy as figures suggest.

The good news doesn't end there either. You might have thought that, under pressure from the strong pound, the balance of trade plunged into deficit last year and is now heading south at a rate of knots, but it didn't. It barely slipped into deficit at all, and it is now showing a healthy surplus.

What a transformation a different statistic approach can work. Thanks to the bureaucrats of Brussels, the Government is applying for the first time a new system for calculating the national accounts – the European System of Accounts – and, perhaps surprisingly, it reflects rather better on Britain's economic performance than the traditional one.

Barclays joins $3.75bn fund bail-out

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

THE CLEARING bank, Barclays, has joined 15 institutions, including Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch, in a $3.75bn (£2.2bn) international bail-out of Long-Term Capital Management, the troubled US hedge fund run by a former Wall Street high flyer, John Meriwether.

The rescue was orchestrated by the US Federal Reserve at a secret meeting in New York in the early hours of yesterday amid fears that the collapse of the fund, which had lost around $4bn in the past few weeks, would pose a serious risk to the global financial system.

Union Bank of Switzerland, which owns investment bank SBC Warburg Dillon Read and is also part of the bail-out, called an emergency press conference yesterday to deliver a shock warning to the financial markets that it is heading for big losses this quarter. The bank has had to write off its entire Sfr905m (£400m) investment in the fund.

Following the disclosure that Barclays was participating in the rescue, the Financial Services Authority ordered 55 City institutions to provide details of their hedge fund exposure. Similar steps were taken in Switzerland by the Swiss Banking Commission.

Barclays said it did not expect "a negative impact on its own profit and loss account" because of LTCM. However, senior banking sources said that although its share of the bail-out could reach $300m, virtually all of its lending to Long-Term Capital was fully secured.

"UBS was a hedge fund investor, Barclays was not," said one senior banking source last night. "It is high-quality collateral, G7 government bonds."

Mr Meriwether was chairman of Salomon Brothers, where he is credited with inventing the technique known as arbitrage, before he set up on his own four years ago with a team which included two Nobel Prize-winning mathematicians, Myron Scholes and Robert Merton, and a former vice-chairman of the Federal Reserve.

The fund specialised in borrowing heavily to fund big bets on government bond markets. Because the underlying instruments were seen as safe, banks took these bonds as collateral against which to lend to fund Mr Meriwether's bets.

Howard Davies, the chairman of the FSA, which was alerted to the crisis together with the Bank of England and the Swiss Central Bank, said he was not requiring Barclays to put up any more capital to cover its exposure. Mr Davies said yesterday that Mr Meriwether's fund had "quite large positions" on Liffe, the London Futures and Options market.

Banking sources said that "anybody who was anybody" would have had some exposure to Mr Meriwether. However, banking sources said that those firms in the rescue consortium were clearly the ones with the biggest exposure.

Barclays, understood to have been with Mr Meriwether since the start in 1994, was represented at the meeting by Tom Kolaris, Barclays' chief executive for the Americas, who was in constant contact with chief executive Martin Taylor. The meeting was one of the most high-powered gatherings on Wall Street: among those present were Goldman Sachs co-chairman Jon Corzine, Travelers Group chairman Sandy Weill and David Komansky, chairman of Merrill Lynch.

Barclays' claims to have minimal exposure did little to reassure the City, where its shares fell 35p to 1065p. But the markets were hardest hit by the warning from UBS. The world's second-largest bank saw its stock fall 10 per cent, with other major banks hit on both sides of the Atlantic. "There are a lot of very cross investors out there," said one trader. An angry UBS shareholder had told him earlier: "When they said they were not taking bets on the Russian market I believed them. I did not expect them to be gambling on someone else who was taking bets on Russian bonds."

As well as having to write down nearly Sfr1bn because of the LTCM débâcle, UBS chief executive Marcel Ospel said that the bank had also suffered a shortfall in emerging markets income of Sfr630m and a loss of Sfr600m in equity markets.

LTCM was one of the most highly-leveraged hedge funds with debt estimated at around 30 times the value of its capital. It lost an estimated $4bn and saw 90 per cent of its capital wiped out in weeks.

LTCM's key men (from left) John Meriwether and Nobel Prize winners Myron Scholes and Robert Merton

THE WHO'S WHO OF HEDGE FUNDS

Long Term Capital Management:
Founded four years ago by former Salomon Brothers chairman John Meriwether said to have invented arbitrage. Includes two Nobel prize winners and one former vice-chairman of Federal Reserve in its "dream team." Cayman Island's based but "mind and management" in Greenwich Connecticut.

Quantum Fund:
Best known of all the hedge funds. Founder Geroge Soros (right), made £10bn out of the pound's demise on Black Wednesday, now takes a back seat to Stanley Druckenmiller preferring to spend his time on his charitable work. Lost $2bn in Russia.

III Offshore Advisors:
Based in Palm Beach West Florida. Run by former Chicago futures arbitrageur Warren Mosler with associates Justin Adams and Cliff Viner. One of their four funds, the Cayman Islands based High Risk Opportunities Hub Fund had to be wound up because of huge Russian bond losses.

Everest Capital:
Bermuda based $2.7bn fund. May have lost as much as $300m in Russia.

Omega Advisors:
Run by Leon Cooperman out of New York, this $4bn is known for taking big equity positions in US companies. Redcent investments include defence contractor Raytheon and Pendant which bought RAC breakdown service. Lost 23 per cent of value in Russia.

Tiger Management:
Run by billionaire Julian Robertson. Lady Thatcher (right) sits on advisory board. With $20bn of equity, said to be the world's biggest. Founded 1980. Reportedly lost $2bn in September as bets in US stocks went sour.

McGinnis Advisors:
Based in San Antonio, Texas. Dana MacGinnis ran several funds of which three filed for protection from creditors in August because of Russian debt losses. Creditors are believed to have included Lehman Bros, Credit Suisse First Boston, Bank America and Citicorp.

Apaloosa:
$1bn fund managed from Short Hills, New Jersey. Said to have been only 30 per cent leveraged, modest by hedge fund standards. Was invested in Russian shares.

Biggest and bravest gamblers retreat from credit crunch

BY LEA PATERSON

News Analysis: Regulatory backlash and tougher times loom, but don't write off Soros and company just yet

UNTIL JUST a few months ago, hedge funds looked unstoppable. The seemingly all-powerful investment partnerships could not put a foot wrong.

They successfully predicted the magnitude of the Tokyo stock fall in the late 1980s. They bet correctly that sterling would fall out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1992. George Soros, one of the most famous and infamous hedge fund managers, attained an almost mythical status as well as a swollen bank account.

But in a few weeks all that has changed. The Russian default and subsequent market turmoil wrong-footed many of the best-known hedge funds. The regulators are on their backs and credit lines are being withdrawn. Suddenly, the world's biggest and bravest gamblers are in retreat.

Even before the latest bout of market turmoil, things were not looking too rosy. Although the term "hedge fund" is often applied to a wide range of investment partnerships, a particular class of funds – the so-called "tactical trading" funds or speculators – was widely blamed for exacerbating the emerging markets crisis.

These funds drove down exchange rates – and in some case stock markets – to excessively low levels, making life more difficult for struggling emerging market economies.

Malaysia imposed capital controls to protect its embattled markets from the speculators. The Hong Kong administration intervened directly in the financial markets to make sure that the speculators lost out from what they termed "market manipulation".

Some of the most influential figures on the world stage had begun to argue that "something must be done" about the speculators, and the issue was expected to figure heavily in the forthcoming annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, even before the latest developments at Long-Term Capital Management.

However, the chronic financial difficulties of Long-Term Capital Management, and others, have focused regulators' minds on the dangers the funds can pose to the health of the international financial system.

The majority of large asset managers and investment banks have some exposure to one type of hedge fund or another. Some institutions invested in hedge funds because they wanted to diversify their portfolio. For instance, a bank trading mostly in equities could help to spread its risk by investing in a specialist hedge fund operating in the US mortgage market. But others invested in hedge funds simply because they wanted to raise returns on their investments.

According to Christopher Cruden, managing director of Tamiso & Co, a US hedge fund: "People were seeking higher and higher returns. In many cases, it was just naked greed." The upshot of all this is that if a major hedge fund goes under, it could pull other institutions with it.

Hence the eagerness of the US Federal Reserve to organise a bail-out for Long-Term Capital Management. And hence the announcement today from the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in London that it was seeking to clarify the exposure of 55 financial institutions to hedge funds.

In the wake of recent events this could be just the beginning for hedge funds, which will face unprecedented regulatory scrutiny in coming months.

But many of the hedge funds have more pressing problems than regulatory meddling. In numerous cases, their creditors are banging on the door. And even those funds which have escaped relatively unscathed so far will find that their ability to obtain new credit has been severely dented. Mark Turner, managing director of Schooner Asset Management, said: "We are in the middle of a major global margin call [a calling-in of loans]. A massive credit crunch is on its way."

Another leading fund manager said: "Put it this way: the heads of credit at many of the banks are being hauled over the coals right now. I can't see them being willing to go out and lend more to the industry."

The problem of liquidity is not confined to the hedge funds. According to Rick Deutsch of Merrill Lynch, hedge funds are "big drivers of business in many markets". If hedge funds are forced to scale back their activities, there will be all sorts of knock-on effects. Companies – or countries – trying to raise capital may find themselves unable to do so because the traditional high-volume buyers of debt and equity are simply not around any more.

But, although the hedge funds may be down, they are certainly not out. The political and the regulatory will to crack down on the funds may have hardened, but it is not immediately obvious that officials have the power substantially to affect the hedge fund industry.

Regulators may be able to force institutions to detail their exposure to the funds. They may be able to force a small number of funds to detail their own exposures to markets. But, as one leading fund manager put it: "A lot of these people are simply untouchable. A lot are based offshore and, in short, there's not a great deal the Bank of England or anyone else can do to control them."

Other experts argue that a regulatory backlash against the entire hedge fund industry is not desirable. Some funds are not highly leveraged, do not place one-way bets on currencies or markets, and do provide a vehicle through which institutions can diversify risk. "At one time, using hedge funds was simply a more efficient way of doing business," said Mr Cruden.

Neither is it obvious that liquidity problems will persist over the longer term. Although most experts agree that hedge funds will have difficulty obtaining credit for the next six months, or perhaps even for the next few years, financial markets tend to have short memories. One credit analyst said: "It might take a year or two, but liquidity will slowly creep back up again."

As Mr Cruden said: "I don't think all this spells the end of hedge funds at all. As long as people, banks and institutions continue to seek out higher returns, the industry is not only going to continue to exist – it will grow."

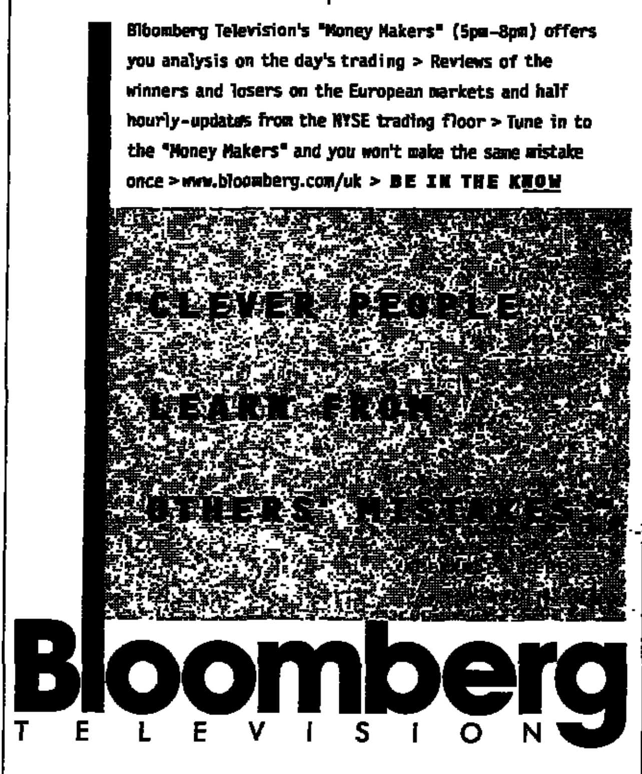
20/MANAGED FUNDS

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
ABN AMRO Pembroke Ltd					
Growth&Income	209.91	223.31	1.37	3.60	5.00
Equity Income	141.19	149.41	-0.60	5.09	5.00
Growth	297.28	316.28	2.28	1.07	5.00
High Income	65.35	68.68	-0.22	7.85	5.00
GlobalGrthAcc	89.05	94.73	2.30	0.61	6.00
AIB Govett Trust Ltd					
4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR					
Tel: 0171 378 7979					
American General	315.82	333.19	8.93	0.00	5.00
American Sm Cos	84.63	(Mid)	2.98	0.00	0.00
American Strategy	152.47	163.06	-1.57	0.00	5.50
Asia Pac	51.81	54.99	2.33	1.09	5.00
Balanced Exempt	157.90	163.60	0.00	1.70	3.00
Cash	9.58	9.63	0.00	0.00	0.50
Core & Sat Ex	154.80	157.04	4.03	2.67X	0.00
Corporate Bond	83.97	86.80	-0.30	6.08	3.25
European General	383.56	405.90	11.30	0.00	5.00
European Strategy	165.36	177.92	8.78	0.00	5.50
FTSE Mid 250 Index	92.35	98.77	-0.32	1.89	5.50
Geared UK Index	20.95	22.12	0.00	0.00	5.50
Global Strategy	39.18	41.90	1.28	0.00	5.50
Greater China	131.21	140.15	6.91	0.00	6.50
International Growth	165.84	177.04	6.82	0.11	5.50
Japan General	85.33	90.02	2.19	0.00	5.00
Latin American	60.27	64.47	5.34	0.00	5.50
Monthly Income	41.73	44.63	0.78	7.90X	5.50
Pacific Strategy	72.51	77.55	4.25	0.00	5.50
UK Bear	4.69	4.94	0.00	0.00	5.50
UK Equity General	378.17	402.30	9.10	0.00	5.00
UK EquitySafeguard	109.16	116.74	-1.64	2.02X	5.50
UK Index	16.53	17.45	0.00	0.00	5.50
UK Safeguard	137.33	146.34	0.00	0.00	5.50
UK Smaller Cos	76.78	81.04	-0.14	0.50	5.50
US Bear	3.88	4.10	0.00	0.00	5.50
US Equity Safeguard	88.31	94.02	-0.03	0.00	5.50
US Index	24.13	25.42	0.00	0.00	5.25
AXA Sun Life Fund Mgrs					
AmerGrowthAcc	125.40	132.50	3.70	0.00	5.00
Balanced Acc	73.18	77.85	0.11	0.00	6.00
Balanced Inc	66.40	70.64	0.09	0.00	6.00
British Excell	112.90	120.10	-0.40	0.00	6.00
BritishFortunesAcc	152.20	161.90	-1.10	0.00	6.00
BritishFortunesInc	94.66	100.70	-0.70	0.00	6.00
DiscretnryPftoloAcc	57.32	60.98	0.36	0.00	5.00
Distribution	31.70	33.72	0.07	2.61	5.00
Distribution Acc	35.34	37.60	0.00	2.61	5.00
EmergMktsAcc	12.18	12.96	0.58	0.41	5.00
Ethical	19.58	20.83	0.13	2.08	5.00
Europe	486.40	517.40	8.30	0.00	6.00
EurpeGrwthAcc	139.30	147.80	2.60	0.61	5.00
Extra Income Acc	57.62	60.68	-0.21	5.78	5.00
Extra Income Inc	41.07	43.47	-0.14	5.78	5.00
FarEastGwthAcc	85.35	90.80	2.08	0.00	5.00
General Acc	828.40	881.30	-0.70	0.00	5.00
General Inc	663.90	706.30	-0.60	0.00	5.00
Gilts&Fixed Int	102.20	107.90	-0.30	0.00	5.50
Gilts&FixedIntAcc	257.60	271.90	-0.90	0.00	5.50
Global Opps	114.50	121.80	2.40	0.00	6.00
Higher Inc Acc	1097.00	1167.00	-10.00	0.00	6.00
Higher Inc Inc	555.30	590.70	-4.80	0.00	6.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
UK Growth	132.70	141.50	1.40	1.20	5.00
UK Growth & Inc	82.20	82.99	0.81	2.20X	0.00
UK Smaller Cos	118.80	127.30	-0.80	0.70	5.00
Charity Fund					
OverseasGwthEx	73.58	74.50	1.38	0.10	0.00
Britannia Fund Managers Ltd					
AmericanGwthAcc	158.21	164.80	4.80	0.00	4.00
AmericanGwthInc	155.26	161.73	4.51	0.00X	4.00
BalancedGwthAcc	219.91	229.07	7.26	0.82	4.00
BalancedGwthInc	185.31	193.03	6.12	0.82	4.00
EuropGrowthAcc	234.26	244.02	8.48	0.05	4.00
EuropGrowthInc	229.35	238.81	8.29	0.05X	4.00
Gilt & Fixed Int	115.81	120.01	-0.72	5.68X	3.50
Gilt&FixedIntAcc	149.53	154.95	-0.93	5.68	3.50
Higher Yield Acc	121.39	126.45	1.91	3.56	4.00
Higher Yield Inc	72.68	75.71	1.14	3.58	4.00
Intl Specl Opps Inc	197.18	205.40	4.82	0.00	4.00
IntlSpeclOppsAcc	197.40	205.62	4.82	0.00	4.00
Japan	33.90	35.32	0.95	0.00	4.00
Japan Acc	33.90	35.32	0.95	0.00	4.00
Managed Portfolio	59.98	62.48	1.02	1.50X	4.00
ManagedPftoloAcc	83.50	86.14	1.09	1.50	4.00
Pacific Growth	79.84	83.16	1.25	1.24	4.00
PacificGrowthAcc	80.13	83.47	1.26	1.24	4.00
Smaller Cos	159.71	166.36	0.68	0.65	4.00
Smaller Cos Acc	181.41	188.97	0.77	0.66	4.00
UK General	124.16	129.33	2.28	2.55	4.00
UK General Acc	139.95	145.79	2.57	2.55	4.00
CIS Unit Managers Ltd					
Environ	224.70	238.60	2.10	1.67	5.00
UK Growth	271.40	285.70	6.90	1.77X	5.00
UK Income	200.10	210.70	1.80	3.45	5.00
Canada Life Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd					
Balanced	62.18	66.52	0.25	1.49	0.00
Bond	198.70	210.10	-0.70	4.60X	0.00
European	120.50	128.00	0.70	0.50	0.00
Far East	125.01	133.70	0.90	1.59	0.00
General Acc	533.20	565.10	5.50	1.21	0.00
General Dist	266.20	282.10	2.70	1.21	0.00
Gilt & Fixed Int	46.97	49.35	-0.06	4.40X	0.00
Growth	324.10	348.30	3.20	1.67X	5.25
High Income	269.00	287.50	1.90	2.90X	0.00
Income Acc	535.70	567.80	3.90	2.97	0.00
Income Dist	157.00	166.40	1.10	2.97	0.00
Intl Growth	220.80	234.70	0.90	0.14	0.00
Japanese Growth	25.20	26.69	-0.13	0.00	0.00
North American	330.30	350.70	3.20	0.00	0.00
UK Smaller Cos	241.79	258.80	-0.50	1.12	0.00
[illegible]	58.83	57.83	-3.26	0.00X	6.00
Capel-Cure Myers Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd					
American & Gen	305.40	323.40	10.80	0.00	5.00
American&GenAcc	324.70	343.80	11.40	0.00	5.00
European Inc Acc	145.00	154.00	5.30	0.00	5.00
European Inc Inc	135.70	144.10	5.00	0.00	5.00
Extra Income	56.45	60.06	0.54	5.78	5.00
ExtraIncomeAcc	68.39	72.76	0.68	5.78	5.00
Fixed Interest Inc	114.10	118.90	-0.60	5.32	2.00
Growth Inc	672.60	715.60	10.20	1.89	6.00
Inc & Growth Acc	881.70	938.00	7.70	4.81	5.00
Inc & Growth Inc	542.00	576.60	4.60	4.81	5.00
Japan & Gen Acc	40.98	43.27	1.34	0.00	5.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Natural Resources	48.50	50.79	-0.07	1.19	4.00
Portfolio Inc	98.39	103.02	0.64	2.33	4.00
Portfolio Acc	99.33	104.01	0.64	2.33	4.00
Special Sits	245.85	257.43	0.60	1.39X	4.00
UK Emerg Cos	114.01	119.38	-0.29	1.79X	4.00
US Smaller Cos	155.30	162.62	3.18	0.00	4.00
Hill Samuel Exempt Umbrella Trust					
European Acc	313.00	326.80	8.70	1.99	3.25
Japan Acc	28.52	28.39	0.64	0.00	3.25
North Amer Acc	378.50	391.80	12.30	0.46	3.25
Pacific Acc	37.73	39.49	1.32	3.48	3.25
Portfolio Acc	99.33	104.01	0.64	2.33	4.00
UK Equity Acc	394.90	414.10	8.50	2.22	3.25
UKSmlrCosAcc	153.30	160.58	0.00	2.95	3.25
INVESCO Fund Managers Ltd					

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Specl Opps Acc	215.20	227.73	0.70	1.91X	5.50
Smaller Cos	86.39	91.42	2.78	1.58X	5.50
Smaller Cos Acc	100.39	106.24	3.24	1.58X	5.50
UK Growth	82.12	86.90	0.60	1.75X	5.50
UK Growth Acc	87.37	92.45	0.64	1.75X	5.50
UK Income	67.38	71.30	0.64	4.03X	5.50
UK Income Acc	79.01	83.61	0.75	4.03X	5.50
Worldwide Gwth	72.76	77.00	1.38	0.70X	5.50
WrwdeGwthAcc	74.07	78.38	1.40	0.70X	5.50
M&G Securities Limited					
Amer Recvy	644.00	680.10	8.90	0.56	5.00
Amer Recvy Acc	745.60	787.40	10.30	0.56	5.00
Amer Smaller Cos	144.10	152.10	2.20	0.00	5.00
American	633.90	669.10	15.20	0.67	5.00
American Acc	797.80	841.90	18.20	0.67	5.00
AmerSmlrCosAcc	147.30	155.40	2.30	0.00	5.00



Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Amer Smaller Cos	168.80	175.80	5.10	0.00	3.00
American Growth	82.68	84.89	2.38	0.00X	3.00
AmerSmlrCosAcc	170.60	177.70	5.10	0.00	3.00
European Growth	379.90	395.80	17.00	0.00X	3.00
Eurpn Growth Acc	393.50	411.00	17.80	0.00X	3.00
Eurpn Smaller Cos	68.99	71.98	2.08	0.00	3.00
French Growth	134.20	139.20	5.70	0.45	3.00
FrenchGrowthAcc	145.30	150.70	6.10	0.45	3.00
Gilt&Fixed Int	30.21	31.22	-0.16	6.91X	3.00
GlblEmgMktsAcc	54.29	56.70	2.72	0.08	3.00
GlblEmgMktsDist	53.55	55.04	2.68	0.08	3.00
High Income Inv	65.40	67.26	-0.29	6.60	3.00
HKong&ChinaPort	67.43	70.20	1.77	2.28	3.00
UK Income & Gwth	69.07	82.63	0.67	2.35	3.00
InternationalBond	52.51	54.15	-0.03	6.04X	3.00
Intl Growth	75.16	78.28	2.08	0.00	3.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Australian & Gen	164.60	174.10	3.00	2.84X	5.00
AusAsiaGenAcc	218.20	228.80	3.80	2.84X	5.00
Blue Chip	86.20	86.73	0.28	3.83	0.00
Blue Chip Acc	269.50	270.94	0.89	3.83	0.00
British Opps	62.10	65.70	0.10	3.00	5.00
British Opps Acc	225.90	238.90	0.40	3.00	5.00
Capital Acc	1296.10	1370.60	0.70	2.59X	5.00
Capital Inc	1037.00	1096.60	0.60	2.59X	5.00
Cmmdty&Gen	274.90	290.70	4.80	1.50X	5.00
Cmmdty&GenAcc	411.60	435.20	7.20	1.50X	5.00
Corporate Bond	29.93	29.99	-0.15	5.60X	0.00
Dividend	50.60	53.50	0.10	4.67	5.00
Dividend Acc	241.40	255.40	0.50	4.67	5.00
European	853.30	902.40	18.10	0.84	5.00
European Acc	1104.80	1168.40	23.40	0.84	5.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Japanese	39.77	42.06	0.99	0.00	5.25
Maximum Income	98.72	101.29	0.01	8.12X	2.50
UK Smaller Cos	73.93	78.18	-0.62	1.52X	5.25
Scottish Amicable Pension Funds					
PO Box 14662 Craigforth Stirling, FK9 4ZS					
01786 448844					
95%SafeguardPens	108.90	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00
100%SafeguardPens	105.80	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00
WealthPreserveCap	112.10	(Mid)	0.00	0.00	0.00
WealthPreserveInc	28.00	(Mid)	1.10	0.00	0.00
Scottish Equitable Fund Mgrs Ltd					
American	149.02	157.50	4.67	0.94X	5.00
Cash	36.72	36.72	0.01	6.94X	0.00
Distribution Acc	32.50	34.48	-0.02	5.22	5.25
Distribution Inc	29.70	31.52	-0.01	5.22	5.25
Ethical Acc	51.50	55.68	0.18	1.75	6.00
Ethical Inc	43.47	46.49	0.15	1.75	6.00
Ethical Cap Acc	24.23	25.92	0.17	2.35	5.25
Ethical Cap Inc	24.23	25.92	0.17	2.35	5.25
European	148.88	158.18	5.05	1.24	5.00
Eurpn Smlr Cos	23.03	24.63	0.60	1.50	5.25
European Tact	111.41	118.92	3.98	0.77	5.25
Extra Income	27.01	28.59	-0.18	6.49X	5.25
ExtraIncomeAcc	30.94	32.71	-0.21	6.49X	5.25
Far East	45.21	48.23	1.54	2.64	5.25
International	339.05	360.59	7.84	1.50	5.25
International Acc	609.10	647.84	13.72	1.50	5.25
Japan	40.30	42.70	1.13	0.00	5.00
Technology	209.28	222.12	7.03	0.33	5.00
UK Blue Chip	49.97	53.35	-0.01	2.28X	5.25
UK Blue Chip Acc	62.80	67.16	-0.01	2.28X	5.25
UK EquityGrowth	72.68	77.44	0.71	2.40X	5.00
UK EquityGwthAcc	102.88	109.74	1.01	2.40X	5.00
UK EquityInc	54.72	58.37	0.42	3.56	5.25
UK EquityIncAcc	84.10	89.71	0.65	3.58	5.25
UK Global Tact	58.67	62.88	0.75	2.13X	5.25
UK GlobalTactAcc	65.78	70.61	0.84	2.13X	5.25
US Smaller Cos	21.61	23.12	0.69	0.54	5.25

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Wesleyan					
Growth	145.78	153.78	0.00	1.75	4.00
Whittingdale Unit Trust Mgmt Ltd					
Challenger	95.23	100.87	1.92	0.79	4.00
Gilt Growth	96.97	96.48	-0.18	0.00	1.50
Gilt Income	54.53	55.38	-0.04	5.70X	1.50
ShortDatedGilt	135.50	136.90	-0.10	0.00	1.00
Sterling Bond	54.74	55.68	-0.09	5.80X	1.50
USShrtDatGovtBnd	84.15	85.03	0.69	0.00	1.00
Woolwich Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd					
Corp Bond Acc	58.73	58.67	-0.13	4.97X	0.00
Corporate Bond	51.84	51.78	-0.12	4.97X	0.00
Intl Managed	66.55	70.74	0.77	1.70	5.00
UK StockMarket	124.70	132.70	2.40	2.16	5.00

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Filofax attracts £48m hostile bid from US rival

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

FILOFAX GROUP, the company behind the personal organisers which became one of the icons of the 1980s, found itself the subject of a hostile bid from an American rival yesterday.

Day Runner, a producer of lower-priced organisers based in California, is making a cash offer of 200p per share for Filofax, valuing the business at £47.9m. Filofax shares soared 45 per cent to close just above the offer price at 202.5p, reflecting the possibility of a counter bid. Filofax advised shareholders to "take no action".

Day Runner launched its bid with an attack on Filofax's record. It said Filofax had been ex-growth since 1996, its diversification strategy had failed and its strategic review had not delivered results.

Day Runner's chief executive, Mark Vidovitch, said he was "astounded" that Filofax had not called his company when it was seeking strategic partners last year. Asked why he had not called Filofax himself, he said he did not consider that the right process. "They threw a party but we were not invited."

Day Runner did not attempt an agreed deal with the Filofax board. Instead Mr Vidovitch contacted Filofax's chief executive, Robin Field, only yesterday morning. "We felt we needed to go straight to the shareholders." On Filofax's current position, Mr Vidovitch said: "In the 1980s the brand had a reputation and a recognition to be envied, but today is a different story." However, he pledged to retain the Filofax name if the bid succeeds.

Day Runner says it is the leading personal organiser company in America, with operating profits of $25.6m (£15m) on sales of $167.8m last year and a market value on Nasdaq of $215m. It sells a cheaper range of organisers than Filofax, with prices ranging from $4 to $150.

While Filofax distributes its products though high-street stores such as WH Smith and Boots and is strong in the UK and Europe, Day Runner sells mainly through discount stores such as Wal-Mart, K-Mart and Office World and has most of its business in the US and Canada. Mr Vidovitch said the two businesses were extremely complementary and would make a good fit.

Filofax recorded profits of £4.3m on sales of £42m last year. Although the company boomed in the 1980s, it has found the trading environment much more difficult since then.

Filofax shares crashed in 1996 when the group issued a profits warning. Its market has been invaded by electronic organisers, although Day Runner say these remain niche products because of higher prices.

Clashes over role of 'Mr or Ms Euro'

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

EUROPEAN finance ministers will join battle this weekend in a new row over who should represent the euro on the international stage including the G7 and the International Monetary Fund.

The dispute, which pits the EU's larger countries against their smaller counterparts, underlines the enhanced global aspirations of the architects of the euro, and could lead to a clash with America.

The question of who becomes "Mr or Ms Euro" also raises questions about the role of the European Commission in shaping or presenting policy after the launch of the euro next January.

Officials in Brussels say there is no threat to Britain's G7 status, but argue that successful co-ordination of a Euro-11 policy would diminish the influence of the UK, which will be outside the first wave of monetary union.

At the informal meeting of finance ministers starting in Vienna today, the French finance minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn, will propose that the euro should be represented at G7 by the participating countries already represented there in rotation.

That would mean France, Germany and Italy taking turns to present the view of the Euro-11 bloc, after the European Commission had prepared a joint position taking on board the views of the other eight.

However the small and medium size nations – including Spain and Austria, which holds the EU presidency – are resisting the plan, arguing that their influence would be limited.

They would like to see the job of "Mr or Ms Euro" going to the rotating presidency of the Euro-11, (currently Austria). One alternative would be that the role is taken by the Commission, represented by its president, Jacques Santer, or the economic and monetary affairs commissioner, Yves Thibault de Silguy.

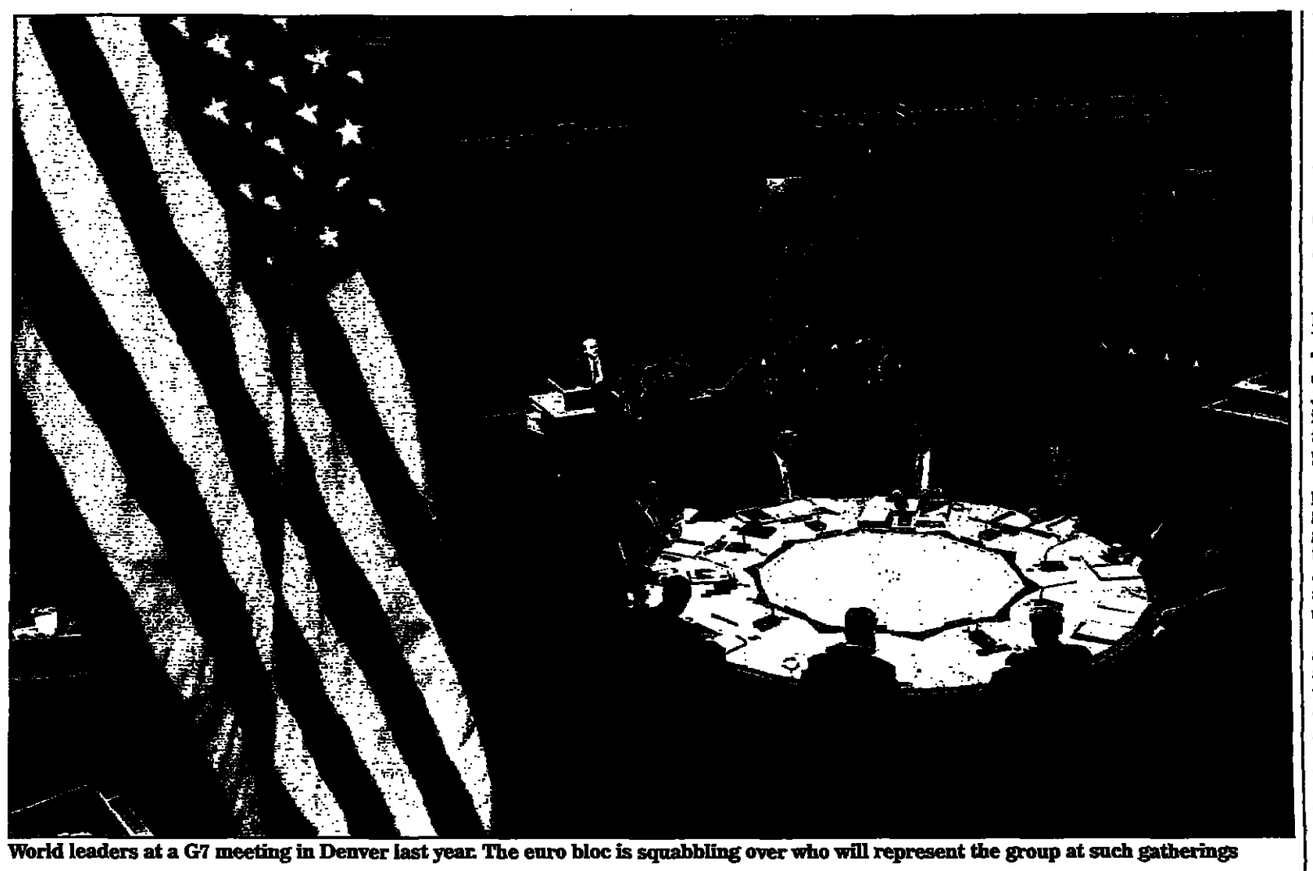
The issue has raised tensions in Brussels. Austria was one of the countries angered by being excluded from moves by Europe's G7 countries in reaction to the Russian crisis earlier this year.

In any event the European Central Bank governor, Wim Duisenberg, is likely to win a seat at G7. Any suggestion of a greater role for the Commission is likely to cause consternation in the US, which feels that Europe – with four participants including Britain – is already over-represented.

The model adopted for the G7 is expected to be applied to the IMF representation, although the Commission is unlikely to be given a presentational role there because of the way the organisation is constituted.

Today's informal Ecofin meeting will also broach sensitive issues including the setting up of ERM2, the exchange rate system which comes into being next January and which Denmark and Greece have pledged to join.

The Austrian presidency also hopes to make progress on tax harmonisation proposals. Negotiations will take place over the issue of a withholding tax on savings.



World leaders at a G7 meeting in Denver last year. The euro bloc is squabbling over who will represent the group at such gatherings

Mobile phone float for Japan's 'Sids'

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE WORLD'S biggest share offer kicked off yesterday as Japanese retail investors were invited to take part in the £36bn flotation of the mobile telephone company DoCoMo.

Each share in the company, part of the giant telecoms group NTT, will cost a staggering £18,000. But advisers to the offer are confident that Japan's "Takeshis" – the equivalent of Britain's Sids – will lap up the offer.

Of the 545,000 shares being sold, 45 per cent have been set aside for small Japanese investors, who have been starved of new equity offers as the Tokyo market has continued to dive.

The shares are being sold at a massive discount to tempt investors to take money out of their bank accounts and subscribe.

According to some estimates, they should rise from their indicative price range of Y3.3m to Y4.3m to between Y5m and Y6m once trading starts next month. This compares with current bank interest rates of between 0.2 and 0.3 per cent.

Shares in DoCoMo – the name stands for Do Communicate by Mobile – are being priced at less than half those in other cellular companies such as Vodafone to ensure strong demand.

NTT is selling a third of its shareholding and the offer will raise an estimated $15bn compared with the $13.3bn raised through the Deutsche Telecom float. UK and European investors are being offered 18 per cent of the shares and US investors 12 per cent.

Advisers are confident that investors will not be deterred by the parlous state of the Japanese markets or the whiff of scandal surrounding the flotation. It has emerged that the Japanese Prime Minister's brother in law holds shares in DoMoCo.

£450m RAC takeover goes to MMC

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

THE £450m takeover of the RAC roadside breakdown business by an American conglomerate was yesterday referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

The move is a blow to the 12,000 members of the élite Royal Automobile Club (RAC) who are hoping for a £35,000 windfall from the deal. The referral means the payout will be delayed and may be blocked.

Kim Howells, the Competition Minister, said he had decided to refer the acquisition of RAC Motoring Services by Cendant Corporation on the advice of the John Bridgeman, the director-general of Fair Trading.

Mr Howells said the acquisition raised competition concerns in the breakdown insurance market.

Analysts had expected a referral as Cendant already owns the Green Flag roadside recovery business. The RAC deal would make it the second-largest rescue service in Britain, with about 8 million members. The AA, which said it was monitoring the position, has 9 million.

The RAC and Cendant said they regretted the referral but said they were still confident of receiving approval.

Neil Johnson, the RAC chief executive, said: "We firmly believe the sale will result in stronger competition and increased consumer benefits. We are confident that a full MMC investigation will confirm this."

Stephen Holmes, the Cendant vice-chairman, said: "While the referral will delay the completion of the transaction, we are confident that the proposed acquisition does not give rise to competitive concerns and will therefore be cleared by the MMC."

The MMC must report by 23 December, meaning that payouts to full members of the RAC Club in Pall Mall, London, will be delayed. The 5.8 million associate members, paying £105 for rescue services, get nothing.

Call for pension compulsion

THE UK'S big engineering companies are calling on the government to make a fundamental change to the law to allow them to force employees to join occupational pension schemes, writes Andrew Verity.

Nearly three-quarters of engineering companies employing more than 500 people want the Government to bring back compulsory membership as a condition of employment as part of its wholesale review of pension policy.

The proposal, floated in a survey of members by the Engineering Employers Federation, would reverse a key reform of the 1980s, which is blamed by many for prompting the £15bn pension mis-selling scandal.

Financial advisers were only able to mis-sell pensions to employees because of a 1987 decision by the government. A change in the law barred employers from making membership of their scheme a condition of employment.

The call comes just weeks ahead of the Government's Green Paper on pensions reform, now expected to be published in November. The paper will set out the Government's direction on pension policy and outline proposals for the new "stakeholder pension".

Few details are yet known of the stakeholder scheme, except that the government wants it to have low charges and be based on defined contributions. The Government is rumoured to be backing away from the idea of forcing everyone to contribute more to pensions.

Stanley and Tote may link up for Coral bid

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

STANLEY LEISURE and the Tote are set to go head-to head with a number of venture capitalists in the battle for the Coral betting shops to be sold by the leisure group Ladbroke, it emerged yesterday.

Stanley, a book-making chain, and the state-owned Tote are considering a joint bid for the 833 Coral shops, following Wednesday's decision by the Department of Trade and Industry to block the £363m Ladbroke takeover on competition grounds.

The two bookmakers are set to face stiff competition from a number of venture capitalists, believed to include Nikko, CVC, Charterhouse and NatWest Ventures. Nomura, the acquisitive Japanese finance house, is thought to be out of the running because it already owns William Hill, the UK's second-largest bookmaker.

A spokesman for Ladbroke, which has been given six months by the DTI to sell Coral to a single buyer, yesterday said that the company had received "a dozen expressions of interests from serious contenders".

The Tote will face stiff competition if it bids

The company said it hoped to recoup the £363m it paid the brewing giant Bass for the Coral shops, but added that it could be forced to accept a lower price due to the uncertain economic conditions.

One of the venture capitalists considering a bid said yesterday that Coral was likely to be sold for a price "substantially below" £363m. He predicted initial offers would be pitched at between £200m and £300m.

A number of potential financial buyers are understood to be looking at "securitisation" to finance the Coral purchase. The practice, which has been used by venture capitalists to finance some of the City's most audacious deals, essentially enables the buyer to offload the risks of the transaction by selling high-yield bonds secured on the cash-flow of the company being acquired.

Sources close to Stanley Leisure, the third-largest bookmaker in the country, said it was talking to the Tote about an offer for Coral. A joint bid with Stanley would enable the Tote to retain the 133 Coral outlets bought from Ladbroke earlier this year for around £46m.

The deal was conditional on the approval of the Ladbroke acquisition and the DTI's decision meant that the state-owned bookmaker would have to return the shops to Ladbroke.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Autologistics (I)	61.4m (62.3m)	27.7m (23.1m)	13.5p (11.1p)	2.25p (2.25p)	04.12.98	02.11.98
Arlen (I)	20.20m (14.13m)	-0.788m (1.295m)	-1.2p (1.2p)	0.4p (0.4p)	26.10.98	02.10.98
Chrysalis (I)	11.4m (9.2m)	-11.4m (-14.4m)	-10.3p (-13.6p)	–	–	–
Development Secs (I)	13.6m (9.5m)	6.4m (1.9m)	22.0p (8.2p)	1.1p (1.0p)	28.10.98	09.10.98
Gieves (F)	12.03m (12.98m)	1.683m (1.289m)	23.0p (16.8p)	10.8p (-)	30.11.98	05.10.98
Hot Pie (I)	3.28m (1.52m)	0.016m (0.073m)	0.0p (1.1p)	nil	–	–
Hunter-Stuart (I)	158.45m (148.45m)	22.237m (148.45m)	5.65p (4.9p)	1.2p (1.0p)	10.12.98	12.10.98
Intelligent Environments (I)	2.63m (2.07m)	-0.674m (-2.948m)	-3.2p (-3.2p)	nil	–	–
International Energy (I)	44.90m (42.82m)	5.85m (5.18m)	6.59p (7.65p)	1.75p (1.20p)	20.11.98	12.10.98
M[illegible] (F)	0.917m (0.116m)	-0.557m (-0.645m)	-2.1p (-2.6p)	–	–	–
M[illegible]r (I)	19.55m (19.14m)	0.753m (0.751m)	2.0p (2.1p)	0.7p (1.1p)	20.11.98	05.11.98
Pembroke (I)	13.34m (4.85m)	1.92m (1.47m)	3.15p (2.59p)	1.21p (1.1p)	05.11.98	09.10.98
Union (I)	– (–)	-0.503m (1.220m)	-2.02p (4.6p)	nil	–	–
Vigin Technology (F)	67.20m (94.60m)	4.44m (11.01m)	2.49p (–)	0.9p	02.10.98	05.10/98
Vision Group (F)	4.35m (8.44m)	-5.8m (-1.5m)	-15.5p (-4.1p)	–	–	–
Wessex (I)	7.95m (7.09m)	0.787m (0.650m)	6.84p (5.83p)	1.85p (1.575p)	21.11.98	05.10.98

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

IN BRIEF

Barclays man appointed as UK's first energy regulator

CALLUM McCARTHY, a former chief executive of Barclays Bank in North America, has been appointed the next director general of gas and electricity supply, the Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Mandelson confirmed yesterday. Mr McCarthy will be appointed as the first energy regulator for the UK, replacing Clare Spottiswoode when her term as director-general of gas supply ends on 31 October, and then Professor Stephen Littlechild when he steps down as director general of electricity supply on 31 December. Both appointments will run until 31 October 2003. Mr McCarthy's annual salary for both posts will be £150,000, compared with the present combined total cost of £223,000.

Tomkins told to sell flour mills

PETER MANDELSON, the Trade and Industry Secretary, yesterday told Tomkins, the handguns-to-Hovis group, to sell four of the six flour mills it bought from Irish food group Kerry in a £92m deal in February.

Mr Mandelson said he accepted the findings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading that the purchase "may be expected to operate against the public interest by reducing competition in the supply of free flour and of bread" in the UK. Tomkins said it had pressed regulators to let the purchase proceed, "particularly in view of the buying power of the multiple retailers" and its plans to invest in the mills.

Budgens buys home shopping firm

BUDGENS HAS bought the home shopping company Teleshop Services for an initial sum of £463,000, the supermarket group said yesterday. Teleshop, which provides a home shopping service to over 4,000 elderly and disabled people via contracts with Social Services, will trade as Budgens Direct and will provide Budgens with access to a home delivery service. A final payment equivalent to one third of the pre-tax profit for the year to April 2001 will be payable to the management team. In the 12 months to March 1998, Teleshop had turnover of £2.2m.

Gas find boosts Enterprise

SHARES IN Enterprise Oil, the UK's largest oil exploration company, rose 24.5p to 414p after the company said a gas well in its Corrib gas field off the west coast of Ireland performed successfully in tests. The well produced natural gas at a rate of 63 million cubic feet per day in tests, with the rate of gas flow limited by the capacity of the testing equipment. Commentators said significant gas reserves could kick-start the oil and gas industry in Ireland, which has only one field producing gas in commercial quantities, Marathon Oil's Kinsale field.

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							0.334%
664	388	Allied Domecq	434.3	-3.8	[illegible]	11.0	[illegible]
486	255	Bulmer(H.P)	305.5	-8.5	6.1	15.7	1136
54	9	BurnStew Dist	11.0	x 0.0	–	3.3	4652
795	479	Diageo	497.0	-21.0	2.5	21.8	
976	755	Glenmorangie	807.5	0.0	2.2	18.4	2790
325	225	HghlndDistillers	235.5	2.5	4.8	10.9	1250
268	122	Matthew Clark	171.5	x-4.5	13.4	4.3	1150
BANKS							-1.142%
1330	715	Abbey Nat	1080.0	x-31.0	3.8	16.4	2121
1067	477	AIB	841.5	x31.5	2.0	19.9	
1601	832	Alliance Leic	890.5	x28.0	3.2	19.4	2223
1999	1001	Barclays	1065.0	x-30.0	4.6	14.3	1004
1330	698	Bk of Ireland	1020.0	35.5	2.0	18.4	
[illegible]	485	Bk of Scotl	681.0	-6.0	2.7	18.4	3050
982	577	Halifax	772.0	x12.5	3.9	17.8	3033
2280	1022	HSBC (75P)	1102.0	x-33.0	5.9	8.8	[illegible]
2193	681	HSBC (HK$10)	1074.0	x-3.0	6.1	8.5	[illegible]
845	570	Lloyds J	595.0	0.0	4.3	23.0	2300
1178	622	Lloyds TSB Gp	690.0	x-20.0	3.4	18.8	[illegible]
1244	700	NatWest Bk	887.5	x12.5	4.7	27.8	1002
723	449	Northern Rock	519.0	19.0	2.6	27.6	
79	43	Rea Bros	45.5	x 0.0	2.8	8.5	3656
1131	601	Ryl Bk Scot	749.0	0.0	3.7	19.4	3219
1044	357	Standchartd	418.3	x 1.8	5.8	7.2	1441
483	313	Woolwich	415.0	x 7.5	4.6	15.5	3589
390	260	[illegible]	308.5	x-8.5	4.8	21.7	8077
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST							-1.914%
1178	831	Bass	834.0	-42.0	5.8	20.1	1005
12	2	Belgo Gp	9.3	0.0	–	154.2	
258	141	Bellhaven	176.5	0.0	4.4	9.8	
198	135	Burtonwood	157.5	0.0	5.0	11.3	1189
152	93	Century Inns	92.5	0.0	10.1	6.1	
163	82	City Ctr Res	85.0	x 1.0	4.6	12.7	1184
708	512	Compass	591.0	5.0	1.9	27.8	4653
343	178	Eldridge P	179.0	0.0	4.4	8.5	4870
385	234	Enterprise Inns	250.5	0.0	3.8	14.2	4777
553	418	Flr Smith&Inr	478.0	0.8	3.0	14.9	2163
538	292	Greenalls Gp	300.0	1.5	7.2	7.9	1238
760	518	Greene King	551.0	0.0	4.2	9.5	1240
358	206	Chez Gerard	219.0	0.0	1.9	17.7	1618
282	205	Hardys & H	222.5	-1.0	6.6	9.6	1248
2875	1750	Holt (J)	1752.5	-2.5	4.8	8.2	[illegible]
76	47	Inn Business	47.5	x 0.0	5.1	7.0	6809

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
401	213	Fenner Gp	216.5	x 1.0	5.2	8.8	1223
38	14	Gardiner Gp	23.5	x 0.0	5.3	10.7	
83	47	Glenchewton	58.0	0.5	4.7	8.4	
136	90	Cowings	102.5	0.0	4.5	9.7	
405	247	Headlam Gp	250.0	0.0	3.7	12.9	2279
21	11	HR Owen	15.0	x 0.0	7.5	10.0	
172	105	Holders Tech	107.5	0.0	7.8	7.3	
705	189	Ideal Hdwre	200.0	-5.0	6.5	6.0	6000
330	58	Ilon Gp	63.5	0.5	9.8	4.2	1787
284	127	Inchcape	127.0	x-3.0	9.5	84.7	7923
159	40	ISA Intl	51.0	x 0.0	8.1	5.0	5447
584	309	Kwik-Fit	433.0	-3.5	2.0	19.4	1287
614	376	Lex Service	377.0	1.5	6.1	15.0	1302
243	195	Lobo Supplies	195.0	-5.0	8.5	6.3	6516
123	63	Lookers	64.0	x 0.5	18.1	–	
575	351	Menzies J	497.5	-27.5	3.8	–	1334
9	2	Middlesex	2.3	x 0.0	–	–	1070
384	230	Norbain	227.5	x 0.0	5.2	8.2	2685
291	158	Northamber	187.5	0.0	2.8	10.8	2694
342	162	Parkes Gp	163.8	-2.0	7.8	7.7	1280
312	152	Pendragon	153.5	x 1.5	9.0	7.2	5907
255	121	Perry	128.5	2.0	9.6	4.8	2757
581	163	Premier Farnell	182.5	-3.0	8.8	8.4	1209
165	88	Quicks Grp	88.5	x-8.0	11.3	6.2	
309	84	REA Hldgs	95.0	x 0.0	4.2	19.8	
3	1	Reece	1.8	x 0.0	–	–	
42	22	Ring	27.0	0.0	7.4	6.6	
6	1	Rincom	1.3	x 0.1	–	–	
5	3	Rose Grp	3.5	x 0.0	–	17.5	
113	68	Ryland Gp	68.5	x 0.0	8.5	4.3	6103
46	8	Saltire	10.0	x 1.0	–	–	
299	160	Sanderson Bml	160.0	-1.5	4.5	7.8	2882
33	11	SEP Intl	14.0	x 0.0	11.5	7.0	
68	27	Sedgemoor	27.0	0.0	9.3	7.7	
274	175	Symer	184.5	1.0		6.5	
293	71	Titon Prod	75.5	1.0	17.6	3.6	
678	510	Tibbett	555.0	0.0	2.5	18.3	1218
440	303	UMECO	302.5	0.0	2.9	13.9	2069
124	89	Utd O'seas Gp	88.5	-1.0	8.2	17.8	2824
316	195	Vardy (Reg)	196.5	x 0.0	5.2	8.2	4677
840	698	WF Elect	800.0	x 0.0	2.8	19.1	3289
193	67	Wyko	81.0	0.5	5.4	6.6	
180	714	Young (H)	114.0	-0.5	5.2	8.1	
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS							0.246%

MAIN MOVERS

RISES

	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Micro Focus	300.00	42.50	16.50
Eidc	146.50	13.00	9.74
Vanguard Medica	305.00	25.00	8.93
Chiroscience	243.50	19.50	8.71
Polypipe	100.00	8.00	8.00
Computacenter	472.50	32.50	7.38
Cambridge Antib	157.50	10.50	7.14
Siltan	132.00	8.00	6.45
De La Rue	166.00	10.00	6.41
Enterprise Oil	414.50	24.50	6.28

FALLS

	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Field	198.50	-44.00	-18.30
Perpetual	2682.50	-485.00	-15.40
Business Post	240.00	-27.50	-10.30
M & G	1197.50	-135.00	-10.10
Spring Ram	7.75	-0.75	-8.82
Goldsmiths	170.00	-15.00	-8.11
Molins	117.50	-10.00	-7.84
Coats Viyella	37.00	-3.00	-7.50
Colt Telecom	546.00	-44.00	-7.46
Vosper Thorycroft	615.00	-47.50	-7.17

MARKET LEADERS

TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm

Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.
BTR	40.30m	Lloyds TSB	18.90m	Monument Oil &Gas 13.41m		British Amer Tob	10.98m
Asda	27.07m	Centrica	17.86m	Pilkington	12.73m	MFI Furniture	10.58m
Tesco	24.71m	Diageo	17.64m	Smithkline Beech	12.02m	Barclays	10.51m
Brit Petroleum	21.08m	Lasmo	17.49m	Royal Sun & All	12.02m		
Brit Steel	20.51m	Shell Transp-Reg	15.38m	Vodafone	11.45m		
Rank	20.40m	Lucasvarity	14.59m				

FTSE 100 INDEX

HOUR BY HOUR

Open	5214.7		11:00	5258.9	Up 44.2	15:00	5203.9	Down 10.8
9:00	5214.7	Up 0.0	12:00	5240.7	Up 26.0	16:00	5174.7	Down 40.0
10:00	5299.0	Up 84.3	13:00	5214.9	Up 0.2	Close	5167.6	Down 47.1
			14:00	5159.3	Down 55.4			

RECENT ISSUES

Stock	Price	Chg(p)
Ambient Media	58.5	0.0
Coca-Cola Beverages	162.0	-4.0
Estmair Prop	162.5	0.0
Guardian IT	403.0	0.8
ICC Computers	270.0	0.0
JVE Telecom	140.0	-1.5
Quantica	96.0	0.0
Salestore	60.5	0.0

source: **Bloomberg**
www.bloomberg.com/uk

SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. Price reflects the official closing mid price. Sector movements are based on the FTSE-350. The yield is the latest 12 months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptionals. Other details: Ex rights; x Ex-dividend; a Ex-all; s Suspended; p Partly Paid; np Nil Paid; Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics. Source: Bloomberg

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You will hear the current FTSE 100 index followed by a Stock Market Summary Report.
You can interrupt at any time to hear a Real-Time Share Price by keying * plus a 4-digit 'code' from the listings on this page.
To get a Membership Number to set-up your Portfolio facility, please call the Help Desk on 0171-725-8288 (during business hours)
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Footsie ends down after early surge

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

ANOTHER VOLATILE session, with the stock market torn between lower interest rate hopes and the damaging US hedge fund crisis.

In early trading it was no contest with the prospect of cheaper money dominating the proceedings and Footsie duly responded with a 107-point surge.

Then New York, up more than 250 points overnight, displayed nervousness over the hedge fund disaster and Footsie ended 47.1 down at 5,167.6. Trading was heavy, with turnover hitting 1.15 billion shares. Supporting shares made modest progress.

Financials were eroded by the £2.6bn rescue of Long-Term Capital Management, run by a legendary Wall Street figure, John Merewether. Barclays, one of the banks offering support to LTCM, fell 35p to 1,065p. HSBC lost 33p to 1,102p and Lloyds TSB 20p to 690p.

Mortgage banks, which should be immune from such international strains, attempted to underline their resilience, with Halifax up 12.5p to 772p; Alliance & Leicester 20p to 869.5p and Northern Rock 19p to 519p.

The stock market uncertainty is weighing heavily on unit trust groups as fears grow that the equity turbulence will panic small holders into cashing in their chips. Perpetual crashed 485p to 2,662.5p; the price touched 4,537.5p in May. M&G fell 135p to 1,197.5p; it was 1,930p in May.

Dividend worries gripped Imperial Chemical Industries; the shares fell 37p to 450p, lowest for seven years. The group was hit last week by a Merrill Lynch profits downgrading. ICI should, many believe, consider a dividend cut but few expect it to repeat its action of nearly two decades ago when, horror of horrors, the chemical group reduced its payment.

Bass, the brewer, is another under intense pressure. The shares fell a further 42p to 638p as they were expelled from the Goldman Sachs European Portfolio, one of its investment yardsticks. There are fears of more downgradings following last week's profits warning. Early this year Bass was riding at 1,175p.

Asda, the superstores chain, was another under the downgrading whip. Credit Lyonnais took the axe to its forecasts, with analyst Paul Smiddy cutting this year by £20m to £410m and next by £40m to £430pm. There was also stories, subsequently denied, that the grocer was planning a revamp which would include stores closing for a day. The shares fell 7.5p to 167p.

Enterprise Oil flared 24.5p to 414.5p following a gas discovery off the west coast of Ireland; on Wednesday the shares rose 19.5p.

National Power, despite takeover talk, fell 20.5p to 560p, and PowerGen shaded 4p to 888p after agreeing to sell some generating capacity to get Westminster approval for its £1.9bn East Midlands Electricity takeover.

Stagecoach reversed 17p to 1,162p after an investment meeting, and Robert Wiseman, the milk group, held at 192.5p following an analysts' get-together. Unigate softened 2.5p to 450.5p, with CSFB putting a 650p price tag on the shares.

Glaxo Wellcome, thought to be indulging in New York meetings, slipped 5p to 1,798p. Global tension was good for resource shares, with Billiton, 8p to 132p, and RioTinto, 25.5p to 691p, moving ahead. Rio, continuing its buy-back, picked up 1.4 million of its shares.

Centrica remained in form, putting on another 5.5p to 117p. Hopes of a lucrative Italian gas deal helped; so did stories that its move into electricity was going well.

Ladbroke lost 12p to 210p on the Coral situation, and Diageo's weak profits distillation left the shares 21p off at 497p, lowest since the merger.

Next, the fashion retailer, put on 15p to 414.5p as Tiger Management, the US fund manager where Baroness Thatcher is a consultant, took its stake to 11.2 per cent, buying 2.1 million shares; Dresdner Kleinwort Benson buy advice also helped.

Filofax jumped 62.5p to 202.5p as the US group Dayrunner mounted a 200p-a-share offer. There are hopes of a counter-offer.

Chiroscience hardened 19.5p to 243.5p following a reduced loss. Bill Gates and fellow Microsoft founder Paul Allen have, it appears, quietly sold their near 6 per cent shareholding.

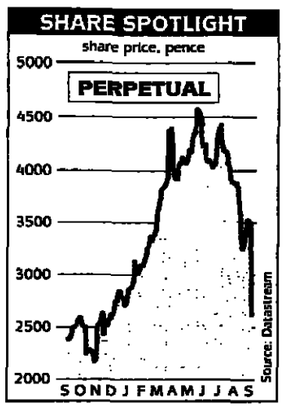
Micro Focus, the computer group, rose 42.5p to 300p following completion of its takeover of the US Intersolv IT group. Presentations took place at DKB; the investment house put a 580p price tag on the shares. Warburg Dillon Read is thought to be preparing a review with a 700p target.

Rank, the leisure group, was heavily traded, with Seaq putting turnover at 15.2 million shares; the price rose 10.25p to 257.25p.

Wyevale Garden Centres held at 260.5p; Charterhouse Tilney rates the shares a buy. It expects profits of £9.8m this year, with £11.5m next. The group lifted its chain to 65 with the £1.5m takeover of the Pilkington Garden Centre, near Warrington.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.15 billion
SEAQ TRADES: 69,002
GILTS INDEX: 110.78 -0.23

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



THE BUILDING materials group Polypipe rose 8p to 108p as Charterhouse Tilney picked up 850,000 shares for clients. A year ago the price was 230p and it reached a 264p peak early last year. The investment house expects Polypipe's profits to climb from £34.6m to £37.5m this year and move to £42.5m in the following year. It talks about the group's manufacturing efficiencies, new products and successful acquisitions.

SAVE, THE petrol retailer, rose 3p to 76.5p after the chairman, Robert Frost, exercised options at 71.98p to take his stake to 4.44 per cent. The garage chain, which suffered badly in the forecourt price war, is expected to produce profits around £13m this year. Last year its managed £7.3m; its peak performance was in 1996, when it made £10.4m. The shares were 136p in the summer.

Diageo wakes up with an emerging hangover

INVESTMENT
EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

INVESTORS IN Diageo must have that "morning after the night before" feeling. After the £24bn merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan went through at the end of December, the shares had a storming run, climbing to a high of 778p in July. Even minority shareholder Bernard Arnault must have been impressed.

Since then the bottom has fallen out of emerging markets and the share price has fallen equally sharply, down a further 21p to 497p yesterday.

Diageo yesterday tried to please the market by producing another £100m of cost savings and maiden results that were in line with reduced expectations. But the underlying picture is still mixed. Stripping out the long list of exceptionals, operating profits from continuing operations were only 5 per cent ahead at £1.9bn.

In spirits and wine, some brands did well but group sales rose by just 2 per cent, held back by underperforming brands and a precipitous 40 per cent fall in sales volumes in Asia. Diageo is selling or discontinuing the worst performers and the company reckons its core brands should be able to grow sales by 5 to 8 per cent a year.

Diageo says Asian markets have stabilised, but now trade in South America is showing signs of softening. There were worries, too, about the food division, where a warning about competitive pressures prompted analysts to downgrade current-year forecasts.

Diageo remains optimistic, however. It claims that its unparalleled distribution system will give it a wider reach than its rivals. It also says that its enlarged development power will help pump out more winners such as the lemonade-flavoured vodka that is powering away in Australia.

Still, there is much to be done. On forecasts of £1.8bn for the current year, the shares trade on a forward rating of 14. Given the uncertainty about emerging markets, there is no rush to buy.

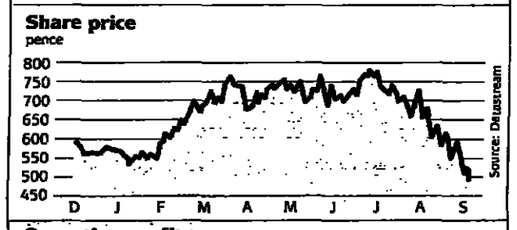
DIAGEO: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £17.8bn. share price 497(-21p)

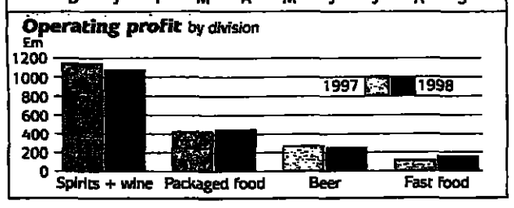
Trading record	1997	1998
Turnover (£bn)	12.9	12.02
Pre-tax profits (£bn)	1.93	1.85
Earnings per share (p)	16.8	23.0
Dividends per share (p)	-	10.8

Operating profit by area, 1997-98, £m	
Europe	534
N Africa	938
Asia Pacific	174
Rest of World	297

Share price
pence



Operating profit by division
£m



The shares rose 7 per cent to 243.5p yesterday as the market began to realise the company's potential. It is time to forget the sector's troubles and get in before it is too late. Buy.

Hewden deaf to recession talk

DESPITE CONSTANT talk of recession, trying to get a British company to admit it will be affected by a downturn is a tricky. Most firms admit the environment is tough, but they all insist it is others who will suffer when the crunch comes.

The latest to trumpet this line is Hewden-Stuart, the plant hire group. Reporting a 17 per cent jump in pre-tax profits for the half to July yesterday, the company insisted there was nothing wrong.

Indeed, it went further. Recessions are good news, Hewden argued, as companies tend to hire rather than buy equipment in an attempt to cut costs. What's more, Hewden will benefit by taking business from, or possibly taking over, less robust competitors.

Is this long-term strategic vision or just an example of staggering corporate complacency? Only time will tell, but investors seem to be leaning towards the latter view. Shares in Hewden, which yesterday put on 2.5p to 137.5p, have lost a third of their value in the past four months.

Not that Hewden is doing anything particularly wrong. It has broadened its base from the construction sector to take in other industries, including the petrochemicals and transport. It has hived off all its peripheral businesses. And it is locking customers into longer contracts to reduce its exposure.

Nevertheless, plant hire remains a largely fixed-cost business: if customers stop renting equipment it sits there unused and profits can disappear sharply. Hewden shares, now on 12 times forecast full-year earnings, discount some of this, but until the outlook is clearer, any price recovery is unlikely.

Chiroscience deserves better

INVESTORS HAVE steered clear of biotechnology companies ever since the start of the British Biotech saga. The sorry spectacle of a drug stalwart being dragged down by allegations of malpractice has hoisted a huge "sell" signal over the whole sector. Share prices have plummeted as investors rushed for the exit.

This has been particularly harsh for companies such as Chiroscience, which yesterday reported a 21 per cent fall in its interim pre-tax loss to £11.4m. The shares have fallen from a peak of 520p to just over 200p in less than two years.

But look at the facts. First, Chiroscience is only months away from the regulatory approval of a potential blockbuster, the local anaesthetic Chirocaine. The drug, to be marketed by Zeneca, is expected to net more than £234m in sales over the next six years. Chiroscience has already received a £15m upfront payment from Zeneca and will pocket more than 10 per cent of future sales.

Second, Chiroscience has £59m in cash, enough to last it until 2001 when it expects to post a profit – a rarity among biotech companies. Cash flow will also be boosted by Chirotech, the unit which produces the ingredients for other drug development companies. This means Chiroscience will not need to raise funds on the market at a time when few fund managers are willing to open their wallets. Also, the management's plan to link up with smaller companies will help Chiroscience to broaden its rather narrow drug portfolio.

Chiroscience's other main problem is a gap in its drug pipeline after Chirocaine, but the anaesthetic's sales should give a breathing space until the new compounds come along.

The scene of the crime: Tintin's moon rocket towers over the books in Ottakar's Bromley store, and (right) the electronic control panel which proved just too exciting for one young visitor

Ottakar falls, er, one pee

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS
BY JOHN WILLCOCK

YOU WOULD think that running a chain of bookstores would be fun, but it can have its messier side, as James Heneage, managing director of Ottakar's, discovered last week.

Mr Heneage and Neil Lloyd, the finance director of the recently floated 30-strong chain, were showing two analysts around the Bromley bookstore. The chief is particularly proud of the extensive children's department, which features a large model rocket based on the Tintin book, *Destination Moon*. The model features a ladder up to a control room featuring lights and buttons for young hands to play with.

The two analysts were clamouring to get on board the rocket and "have a go" but were blocked by a movable bookstand. An embarrassed attendant had to explain that a customer, a young boy, had become "overexcited" while playing in the rocket and had peed copiously all over the cockpit's floor.

The visitors beat a hasty retreat. I am assured, however, that the incident will not affect Ottakar's stock market rating.

A JOKE doing the rounds of the City's dealing rooms: "What's the difference between a rouble and a dollar?" Answer: "A dollar."

Well, I thought it was funny.

RICHARD BRANSON moved further yesterday to impose his authority on the disastrous joint venture with the McCarthy brothers, Victory Corporation, by appointing Stephen Murphy, finance director of Virgin Group, as Victory's new chairman.

Mr Murphy will replace Ian Plutherо who plans to retire in October. Mr Branson's two-year-old business association with Rory and Tim McCarthy, based on clothing and cosmetics retailing, has gone sour, prompting the Virgin boss recently to increase his stake in Victory to 54.69 per cent from 51.2 per cent.

IS IT a Tesco takeover at Vodafone? Lord Maclaurin, the former head of Tesco and currently chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, took over as chairman of the mobile phone company on 21 July. Three months later and he's hired an ex-colleague from Tesco, John Gildersleeve, as a non-executive director.

Mr Gildersleeve, 54, joined Tesco in 1965 and is currently commercial and trading director, with responsibility over the supermarket group's operations in seven countries.

Standby for some cricketers at Vodafone...

WHEN Australian customs officials recently encountered a plain, brown box with a label identifying its contents as a "quaich", (correct) they immediately became suspicious.

Tests, including X-rays, gas testing and an appraising sniff by security dogs, allayed concerns that the package may have contained explosives, drugs, or other contraband, yet did not help officials categorise the import as animal, vegetable or mineral.

With the box safely quarantined, an inquiring phone call was placed to the intended recipient, a Bill McAndrew of Weir Engineering on the New South Wales Central Coast. Recounting the story in his Scottish brogue, Mr McAndrew said: "When I told them a 'quaich' was a traditional solid silver cup for drinking whisky, they said: 'You've got to be joking.' So in the end I had to provide them with a written description and guarantee."

Three days later the quaich was released and rushed to Weir's newly expanded Australian HQ for presentation by the chief executive of the Scottish pump-making group, Sir Ron Garrick, to the NSW State Premier, the honourable Bob Carr, MP. With the city of Sydney recently experiencing high levels of parasites in its water system, Sir Ron had no hesitation in suggesting to the Premier that he should err on the side of caution and always drink his single malt straight.

WE'VE HAD the Bank of England appointing the first female Chief Cashier, Merlyn Lowther. Now BAA has appointed its first woman director since the airports authority was launched 32 years ago. Valerie Gooding, chief executive of BUPA and a former employee at British Airways for 23 years, is the woman chosen to break the blokes' monopoly.

Mrs Gooding, 48, a married mother of two, joins BAA in November as a non-exec director.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
				0.5884	0.5894	0.5912	0.3516
UK	1.0000			1.7122	1.7124	1.7129	1.0231
Australia	2.9099	2.9055	2.8973	11.779	11.777	11.774	7.0386
Austria	20.019	19.983	19.915	34.538	34.482	34.379	20.538
Belgium	58.697	58.508	58.149	1.5130	1.5130	1.5130	0.9040
Canada	2.5711	2.5671	2.5590	6.3735	6.3723	6.3685	3.8084
Denmark	10.832	10.812	10.772	1.4359	1.1755	1.1779	0.8281
ECU	1.4474	1.4434	1.4357	5.0955	5.0872	5.0714	3.0447
Finland	8.6598	8.6316	8.5777	5.6119	5.6027	5.5859	3.3533
France	9.537	9.506	9.448	1.6796	1.6708	1.6657	1.0000
Germany	2.8442	2.8349	2.8173	289.23	290.88	294.38	172.82
Greece	491.55	493.55	497.91	7.7480	7.7608	7.8065	4.6297
Hong Kong	13.168	13.168	13.204	1.4950	1.4943	1.4948	0.8933
Ireland	1.1368	1.1354	1.1315	1654.9	1654.2	1652.6	988.84
Italy	2812.5	2806.7	2795.2	134.90	134.32	133.18	80.607
Japan	229.26	227.90	225.25	3.8050	3.8830	4.0050	2.2736
Malaysia	6.4666	6.5885	6.7741	10.0955			6.0324
Mexico	17.157			1.8879	1.8845	1.8784	1.1281
Netherlands	3.2084	3.1975	3.1770	0.4935	2.0263	2.0262	0.2949
New Zealand	3.4438	3.4381	3.4271	7.4425	7.4581	7.4895	4.4471
Norway	12.649	12.654	12.668	171.70	171.53	171.17	102.60
Portugal	291.80	291.04	289.52	3.7550	3.7600	3.7725	2.2437
Saudi Arabia	6.3816	6.3798	6.3808	1.7135	1.7120	1.7105	1.0239
Singapore	2.9121	2.9046	2.8931	5.7748	5.8453	5.9898	3.4506
South Africa	9.8142	9.8179	10.1311	142.19	142.08	141.80	84.963
Spain	241.65	241.07	239.84	7.8660	7.8575	7.8445	4.7002
Sweden	13.368	13.332	13.268	1.3858	1.3811	1.3724	0.8281
Switzerland	2.3552	2.3434	2.3214	1.0000			0.5975
US	1.6995						

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6995	1.0000	Oman	0.6543	0.3850
Brazil	2.0112	1.1834	Pakistan	91.603	53.900
Chile	14.069	8.2783	Philippines	74.523	43.850
Czech Rep	51.214	30.135	Poland	6.0825	3.5790
Egypt	5.8029	3.4145	Qatar	6.1870	3.6405
Ghana	3989.6	2347.5	Russia	27560.8	16217.0
Hungary	373.21	219.60	South Korea	2367.4	1393.00
India	72.314	42.550	Taiwan	58.765	34.578
Indonesia	18439.6	10850.0	Thailand	67.768	39.875
Kuwait	0.5171	0.3043	Turkey	471254	277290
Nigeria	145.73	85.750	UAE	6.2414	3.6725

INTEREST RATES

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.50%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.30%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.38%	Discount	2.75%
Italy		Prime	7.50%	Spain		Central	3.30%
Discount	5.00%	Discount	6.00%	10-d Repo	4.25%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.00%
SpAdvance	3.30%	Discount	4.25%	Repo(Ave)	4.10%	Lombard	3.25%

BOND YIELDS

Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.74	-0.08	4.59	-0.11	4.64	-0.06	4.87	-0.04	5.14	-0.05
Belgium	3.48	-0.04	3.54	-0.02	3.50	-0.08	3.77	-0.06	4.27	-0.01
Canada	4.98	-0.13	5.08	-0.10	4.99	-0.06	4.96	-0.04	5.08	-0.02
ECU	4.13	-0.02	3.80	-0.01	3.63	-0.07	3.80	-0.05	4.17	-0.02
France	0.00	0.00	3.45	-0.01	3.56	-0.05	3.77	-0.08	4.13	-0.01
Germany	3.49	0.00	3.58	-0.02	3.42	-0.08	3.74	-0.03	3.95	-0.02
Italy	4.83	0.00	4.08	0.00	3.95	-0.04	4.04	-0.05	4.43	-0.01
Japan	0.16	0.02	0.27	0.01	0.34	0.01	0.62	-0.02	0.91	-0.01
Nflands	3.37	0.01	3.56	0.00	3.58	-0.02	3.81	-0.03	4.10	-0.02
Spain	4.00	0.00	3.60	-0.02	3.64	-0.06	3.87	-0.04	4.39	-0.03
Sweden	4.25	0.00	4.33	-0.01	4.37	-0.02	4.56	0.00	4.88	0.01
Stland	1.52	-0.01	1.75	-0.01	1.73	0.04	2.08	-0.01	2.91	0.00
UK	7.10	0.00	7.00	-0.06	5.80	-0.03	5.30	-0.03	5.06	0.01
US	4.47	...	4.31	...	4.45	...	4.45	...	4.45	...

MONEY MARKET RATES

	Overnight Bid	Overnight Offer	1 week Bid	1 week Offer	1 month Bid	1 month Offer	3 months Bid	3 months Offer	6 months Bid	6 months Offer	1 year Bid	1 year Offer
Treasury Bills					7.30	7.20	7.20	7.10				
LIBOR												
Domestic Depos	7.25	7.38	7.38	7.50	7.38	7.44	7.31	7.34	7.13	7.19	6.846	91
Eurosterling Deps	7.31	7.44	7.38	7.50	7.38	7.44	7.31	7.38	7.16	7.22	6.886	94
Eligible Bank Bills					7.29	7.21	7.18	7.10	6.97	6.90		
Sterling CDs					7.39	7.33	7.30	7.22	7.13	7.05	6.906	80
Eurodollar CDs					5.41		5.31		5.25			
ECU Deposits					4.06	4.19	4.00	4.13	3.53	3.97		

www.bloomberg.com/uk Source: Bloomberg

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est. floor volume	Open interest
Long Gilt	Sep-98	114.35	114.32	114.31	746.00	4545.00
5 Yr Gilt	Sep-98	106.81	...	...	...	561.00
German Bund	Dec-98	113.64	114.03	113.50	4.00	5245.00
Italian Bond	Dec-98	111.33	111.53	111.05	23708.00	86614.00
Japan Govt Bd	Dec-98	138.39	138.42	138.18	1614.00	0.00
3 Mth Sterling	Dec-98	93.05	93.09	93.01	43153.00	187529.00
	Mar-99	93.47	93.50	93.42	35269.00	162227.00
3 Mth Euromark	Oct-98	96.47	96.47	96.47	300.00	15718.00
	Nov-98	96.47	..	..	...	543407.00
3 Mth Eurolira	Dec-98	96.24	96.26	96.21	40681.00	159403.00
	Mar-99	96.48	96.49	96.46	10403.00	261737.00
3 Mth Euroyen	Dec-98	99.43	...	...	...	0.00
3 Mth Euroswiss	Dec-98	98.32	98.35	98.21	20268.00	67941.00
	Mar-99	98.32	98.36	98.23	13064.00	40447.00
3 Mth Euro	Oct-98	95.89	...	...	...	10255.00
	Nov-98	95.91	...	...	...	5155.00
FTSE 100	Sep-98	5111.50	...	...	...	0.00

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION

Settlement Price 5167.60

Series	Oct Call	Oct Imp Vol	Oct Put	Nov Call	Nov Imp Vol	Nov Put	Dec Call	Dec Put	Jan Call	Jan Put
5100	392	46	111	45		517	216	604	263	677	333
5150	354	45	122	44		479	229	571	279	645	351
5200	316	44	137	42		446	251	540	300	613	369
5250	279	42	148	41		416	266	510	327	585	392

ENERGY AT 5:30PM

Brent Crude($/barrel)				Gas oil($/tonne)				WTI Crude($/barrel)				Products($/tonne)		
IPE	Last*	Chg	Vol	IPE	Close	Chg	Vol	NYM	Last*	Chg		Spot CIF NW Eur		
Nov	14.60	0.09	19393	Oct	129.00	1.00	5504	Oct	15.67	0.00		Gasoline 95	156.00	
Dec	14.79	0.15	8654	Nov	132.00	1.00	2982	Nov	15.95	0.12		Naphtha	138.00	
Jan	14.90	0.15	1356	Dec	134.50	1.50	2010	Dec	16.07	0.10		Gasoil	124.50	
								Jan	16.15	0.10		Fuel Oil (3.5%)	70.00	

GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES AT 5:30PM

	BASE DATE	LAST	CHG	%CHG	31 DEC	%CHGYTD
Index	1970=100	153.56	0.94	0.62	215.26	-28.66
Agricultural	1970=100	183.75	0.87	0.48	231.23	-20.53
Energy	1983=100	57.04	0.58	1.03	85.86	-33.57
Ind Metals	1977=100	138.04	0.00	0.00	168.79	-18.22
Livestock	1970=100	150.05	-0.85	-0.56	191.03	-21.45
Prec Metals	1973=100	389.56	4.96	1.29	463.54	-15.96

INDUSTRIAL METALS

LME ($/tonne)	Cash		Chg	3 month		Chg	LME stocks	Chgx
Aluminium HG	1307	1308	12.50	1337.5	1338	11	508200	-25
Aluminium Alloy	1127	1132	5.00	1158	1160	3	77640	640
Copper A	1630	1631	5.50	1649	1650	3	399075	5625
Lead	515.5	516.5	1.50	530	531	2	114550	-375
Nickel	4060	4070	-15.00	4130	4135	-20	58854	84
Tin	5425	5435	-40.00	5365	5370	-30	8510	90
Zinc	983.5	984.5	4.00	1007	1008	3	368025	-450

PRECIOUS METALS

pm fix/$ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	pm fix/£ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	Coins ($)		Year's chg
Platinum	356.50	3.50	-85.50	Platinum	211.30	1.05	-63.25	Krugrands	282 65	-38.85
Palladium	284.00	6.00	90.00	Palladium	168.35	2.80	47.85	Sovs	64.17	
Silver	5.06	0.18	0.34	Silver	3.00	0.10	0.08	Nobles	386.05	
Gold	292.70	3.80	-30.00					Maple Leaf	284 65	-45 46

AGRICULTURAL AT 5:30PM

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Lge Potatoes	
LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	ATA	$/25k kg
Sep98	986.00	Sep98	1716.00	Sep98	72.35	Nov98	80.00	Apr99	532.00
Dec98	1018.00	Nov98	1632.00	Nov98	72.50	Mar99	130.00	May99	531.50
Mar99	1047.00	Jan99	1568.00	Jan99	75.00	Apr99	167.00	Jun99	542.00
Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0
White Sugar*		Freight		Wheat		Corn*		Soya Beans*	
LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	$10/dx pt	LIFFE	$/tonne	CBOT	Cents/bshl	CBOT	$-5k bshls
Oct98	211.30	Sep98	915.00	Sep98	72.85	Sep98	193.25	Sep98	33.80
Dec98	216.30	Oct98	970.00	Nov98	72.85	Dec98	207.00	Nov98	27.50
Mar99	222.00	Nov98	980.00	Jan99	74.75	Dec98	207.00	Jan99	36.00
Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0

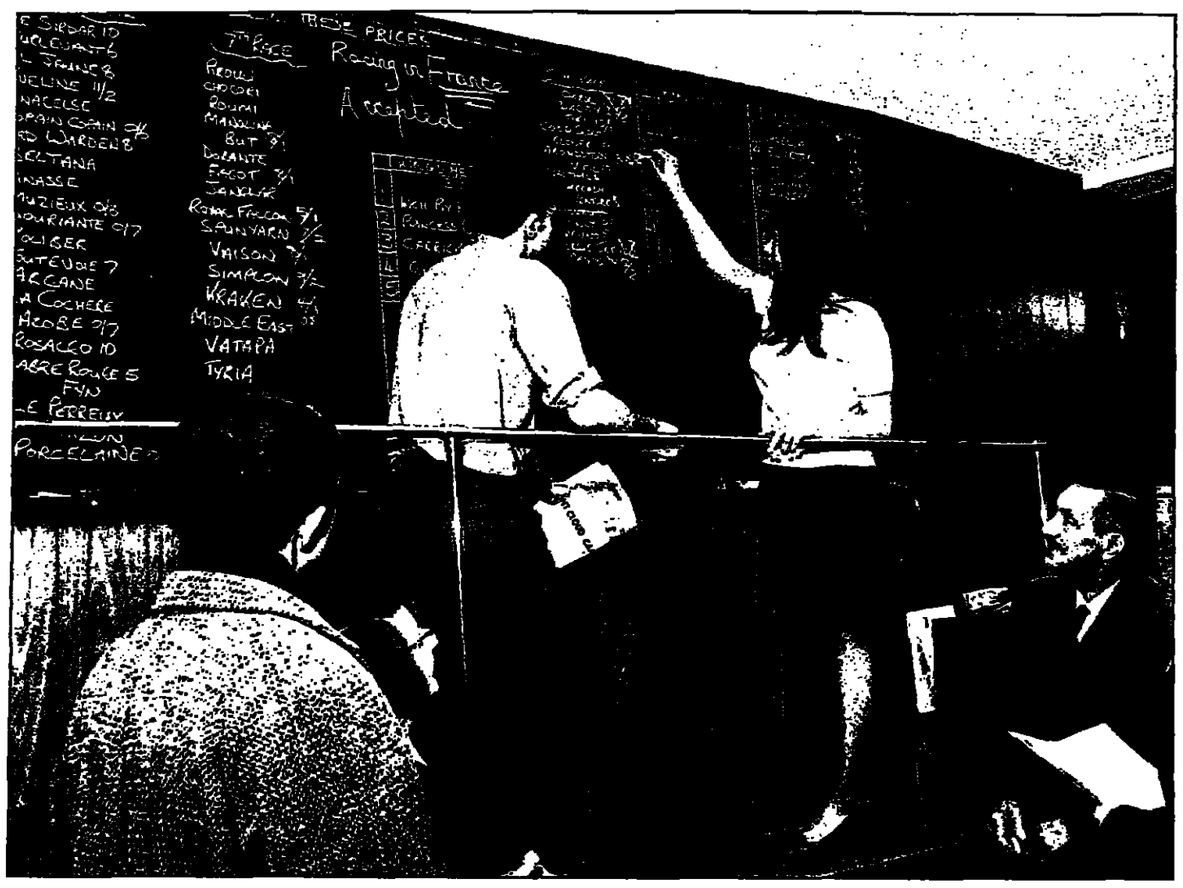
OTHER SPOTS AT 5:30PM

Oct	Live Cattle	(CME) $/40k lb	60.75	Dec	White Maize	(SAF) $/100 mt	670 00
Feb	Pork Bellies	(CME) $/40k lb	47.70	Mar	Rubber	(TCM) ¥/ 5k kg	..
Nov	Orange Juice	(CTN) $/15k lb	103.00	Dec	Cotton	(CTN) $/50k lb	75.35
Oct	Milk	(CSC) $/50k lb	18.00	Oct	Crude Palm	(KLC) $/25 m	2368.00
Dec	Oats	(CBT) $/5k bsh	112.75	Dec	Soya Oil	(CBT) $/60k lb	25.34
Nov	Flax	(WCE) $/20 m	316.50	Feb	Woollen Yarn	(TCM) $/500kg	1255.00

SPORT

Advance of the High Street bookie

The refusal to allow Ladbrokes to keep Coral is another upheaval in betting's colourful history. By Greg Wood



From the boards of the Sixties (top) to the screens of the Nineties, bookmakers' shops have changed dramatically *David Hartley*

THE STORY of off-course betting in Britain is a tale of crime, enterprise, wealth and hypocrisy, and anyone with 40 years' of punting experience will have experienced it all. From the days of illegal cash betting shops, raided once a year to keep up appearances, through an explosion of small operators in the 1960s, to the market of today in which a handful of brand names dominate, the betting industry has matured at an astonishing speed.

Ladbrokes' attempt to take over the Coral chain was blocked on Wednesday, but they remain the major players in the off-course market. Things were rather different in 1886, when a small credit bookmaking firm decided to name itself after the Warwickshire village, Ladbroke, where it was founded. Forty years earlier, cash betting shops had been operating freely and legally throughout the country, if only because no law had ever been framed to ban them. In 1853, though, after several bookmakers went bankrupt and welshed on their customers, an Act of Parliament closed them all down.

Or rather, it drove betting shops underground, where they were to remain for the next 108 years. Over the course of a century, the bookies' runner, who took bets on street corners and at the factory gates on behalf of the local layer, became a familiar figure. There was even specialist technology to ensure the security of this multi-million pound illegal industry, in the form of the clock bag, which locked securely and recorded the time when it was shut. Betting "after time" was thus almost impossible.

If the betting industry at the time of Ladbrokes' foundation was different, then so too was the firm itself. Choosy to the point of snobbery about who it would accept as a client, Ladbrokes considered itself the bookmaker to the gentry, whether they chose to bet on credit away from the course – which, unlike cash betting, was perfectly legal – or with Ladbrokes' representative at the track. It is an irony of Ladbrokes' current domination of off-course betting that the bookmaking firm which once dealt only with aristocrats now takes more money from the common herd than any other.

The firm's rise to pre-eminence effectively began in the early 1960s, when two important facts began to dawn on the authorities. First, the law against off-course cash betting was doing nothing to curb the gambling instincts of the general public. Second, when an industry is legal and regulated, it can also be taxed.

Betting shops were finally legalised on 1 May 1961, although life was still not easy for either bookie or punter. Within a couple of years, the number of betting shops in Britain had risen to almost 20,000, as previously illicit bookies took out permits – famously described by John Banks, one of their number, as "a licence to print money" – and fought for a share of the market. Punters, meanwhile, were denied even the most basic of facilities. Legal it might be, but betting was still considered a vice. The gambling urge could now be serviced, it must never be encouraged. Only in 1986, a generation later, would the law be relaxed to allow betting shops to install toilets, coffee machines and televisions showing live racing.

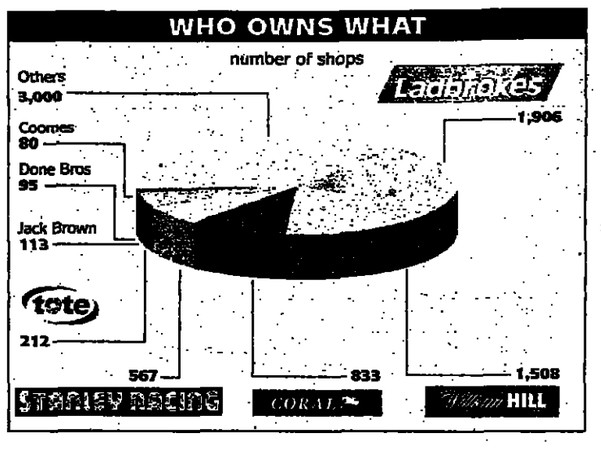
Once legal betting shops had arrived, betting tax was only a matter of time. Punters have Jim Callaghan to thank for the deductions which make it all but impossible to beat the bookie, the then Chancellor having introduced the tax – at a rate of 2.5 per cent – in 1966. By now, the number of shops had already started to fall – there are less than 9,000 today – and after aggressive expansion programmes, the Big Four brands, Ladbrokes, William Hill, Coral and Mecca, were already starting to become familiar on most High Streets.

These days it is the Big Two, Ladbrokes and William Hill, although the latter was a relative latecomer to the off-course market. The original William Hill was the most famous on-course bookmaker of his generation, prepared to lay huge bets and take the consequences if his judgement failed him. It rarely did, but the same was not true away from the track. Hill had a thriving off-course business – with both legitimate credit clients and illegal cash offices – but he was slow to move into legal betting shops. Hill had – by bookmakers' standards, anyway – a well-developed social conscience, and was heard to describe the new establishments as "a cancer on society".

Eventually, though, Hill could resist no longer, and he bought his first betting shops in 1966. Hill died in 1971, the same year that his business was sold to the Sears group, but its expansion continued. Ladbrokes, too, was busily buying its way to the forefront of the market, and few bookmakers were safe from the predatory urges of the major players. Even William Hill succumbed, being bought by Grand Metropolitan in 1988 and merged with Mecca, which Grand Met already owned. Hill's name was retained, perhaps to give a human touch to what was a huge corporate machine.

By now, the market had started to coalesce into its present form, in which punters often feel free to bet with anyone they please, so long as it is either Ladbrokes, Hills or Coral. Nationally, there are just seven firms with more than 100 betting shops, but between them they account for 60 per cent of off-course outlets.

Yet if you are prepared to look hard enough, away from the plush new Big Three betting shops in prime High Street sites, it is still possible to find small, independent bookmakers in back alleys or on half-deserted local parades. They are the true descendants of the pre-War betting underground, with its runners and clock-bags and bribes for the local constable. It might be wise to visit one before it is too late.



THE CHANGING FACE OF OFF-COURSE BETTING

1853
Betting and Gaming Act makes off-course cash betting illegal. Credit accounts operated by post or, later, telephone are still permitted. Illicit betting shops proliferate.

1928
Horserace Totalisator Board (the Tote) is established by Parliament to control pool betting (like the football pools, dividends are declared after the race according to the number of winning tickets).

1961
Off-course cash betting legalised. A short-lived campaign to give the Tote an off-course monopoly, such as exists in France and Australia, fails when the Jockey Club show little interest in the idea.

1966
Cyril Stein becomes chairman of Ladbrokes, and begins an aggressive programme of acquisitions. Betting tax introduced at a rate of two and a half per cent. The current level of deductions payable on off-course bets, made up of tax and a little something for the bookie, is nine per cent.

1971
William Hill Organisation sold to Sears Group, a trend which is to continue with the purchase of Coral, by Bass, and Mecca, by Grand Metropolitan.

1986
Law relaxed to allow basic amenities, including toilets, in betting shops.

1987
Satellite Information Services (SIS) starts to broadcast live racing to Britain's betting shops. Within three years, its coverage reaches all but a handful of outlets.

1988
The Big Four becomes the Big Three when Mecca buys Hills, but adopts the latter's name for its 1,600-shop chain.

1998
Ladbrokes ordered to sell off Coral, purchased for £375m on 1 January. Its eventual purchaser will automatically become the third major player in the market.

Rusedski is ready to double up

TENNIS

BY JOHN ROBERTS
in Nottingham

DES O'CONNOR Tonight, the World Group tomorrow. British tennis is on the up. Happily, Greg Rusedski's television appearance has been prerecorded, so there is no question of a hectic dash to London from the Davis Cup promotion tie against India. And we have it on good authority that the only person Rusedski is likely to join in a duet is Tim Henman.

The identity of Britain's doubles team tomorrow depends largely on the outcome of today's two singles matches. Rusedski, the British No 2, opens against Leander Paes, India's No 1 by the length of the Ganges. Henman then plays Mahesh Bhupathi, a fine doubles player whose experience at singles is summarised by a world ranking of No 363. Paes and Bhupathi are ranked No 3 among the world's top doubles teams.

Although David Lloyd has nominated Henman and Neil Broad, the 1996 Olympic Games silver-medallists, the rules allow captains to change the doubles teams up to an hour before tomorrow's rubber. "If we're two-nil up, and Rusedski and Henman have blitzed their opponents in straight sets and there are no injuries, then I'll probably play Greg and Tim together," Lloyd said. "But I'm keeping my options open. I'm pleased to have three possible permutations." Rusedski and Henman successfully partnered each other in the two most recent ties against Ukraine, in Kiev in July 1997, and in Newcastle, in April this year. Rusedski, not the keenest of doubles players, is willing to weigh in with Lloyd's wishes. "We got the job done," he said with a wry smile, recalling tie-breaks in each of the final sets in the matches against Ukraine.

Emphasis on the doubles is understandable. Whatever befalls India today, they will fancy their chances of unsettling Britain tomorrow and keeping the tie alive for Sunday. The Indians specialise in unsettling more fancied opposition, which is why they have spent the past six years in the 16-strong World Group while Britain have been dragging themselves from the depths of zonal competition.

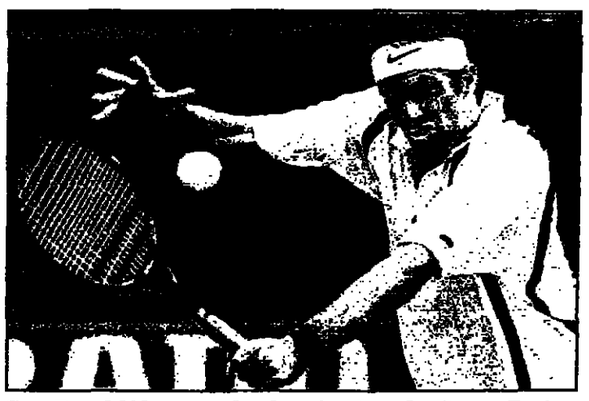
India, in fact, ended Britain's last flirtation with the World Group in 1992, defeating Tony Pickard's team 4-1 in New Delhi. This followed Britain's 5-0 defeat against France, the holders, in Bayonne in January 1992. The match in New Delhi was played on grass, the sport's only natural surface and one which suits the Indians' traditional attacking style as much as Britain's. Today's tie will be played on outdoor, rubberised-concrete hard courts.

"They have done their homework well," said Paes, underlining the point that India have not played a tie on hard courts for 15 years. "This is a slowish hard court," Paes added, brightening somewhat. "Facing Rusedski on a grass court or on a fast hard court would be much tougher than on a court like this."

Paes, ranked No 88, was an Olympic bronze medallist in Atlanta in 1996, having lost to Andre Agassi in the semi-finals. Paes, who recently added Pete Sampras to a list of big-name conquests, will hope to capitalise on any sign of court-rust by Rusedski.

The big-serving left-hander, whose ranking has slipped to No 15, took a break from matches last week after his three five-set contests at the United States Open ended a brief hard court campaign following two months recovering from the ankle injury which ended his Wimbledon prospects.

"Paes plays well for his country," Rusedski acknowledged. "He's going to come in on every single ball. He'll chip and charge. He's really flashy. He goes for everthing."



Greg Rusedski has crucial task against Leander Paes *Reuters*

Henman, ranked No 11 and fresh from successfully defending his ATP Tour title in Tashkent, said: "If Greg goes out and beats Paes it will be a huge boost. If Greg were to lose, it would put a bit of pressure on me. But I don't expect that to happen. We belong in the World Group with the team we have. We have to be right at the top of our game."

"The team spirit is great," said Lloyd, who made a plea for the 3,700 spectators to make themselves heard. "I would like to see the British crowd get behind the British team more than they do. Sometimes I don't think we let ourselves go."

There should be something worth shouting about on this occasion. We shall then have to see if Britain can get by among the élite with only two world class players.

DAVIS CUP (Nottingham) England v India: Today (11am): Greg Rusedski v Leander Paes, Tim Henman v Mahesh Bhupathi. **Tomorrow (1.30pm):** Neil Broad and Tim Henman v Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes. **Sunday (11am):** Henman v Paes, Rusedski v Bhupathi.

Spain mount big threat to holders

SWEDEN START today's Davis Cup semi-final against Spain in the unfamiliar role of underdogs. The holders, who have been finalists in three of the past four years, are at full strength in Stockholm but will face a powerful Spanish team including Carlos Moya, the World No 5, and the seventh-ranked Alex Corretja. Both are in a rich vein of form.

It used to be easy to run the Spanish clay-court armada aground – just lay down a fast carpet and put a roof over it. But with Moya, the French Open winner, having reached the semi-finals of the United States Open and Corretja having enjoyed his best hard court season, Spain cannot be regarded as one-surface wonders.

"We are not just clay court specialists," Manuel Santana, the Spanish captain, said. "Carlos Moya, in particular, has shown he can adapt quickly to any surface and so I am sure we can do well. The surface is very fast but we are optimistic."

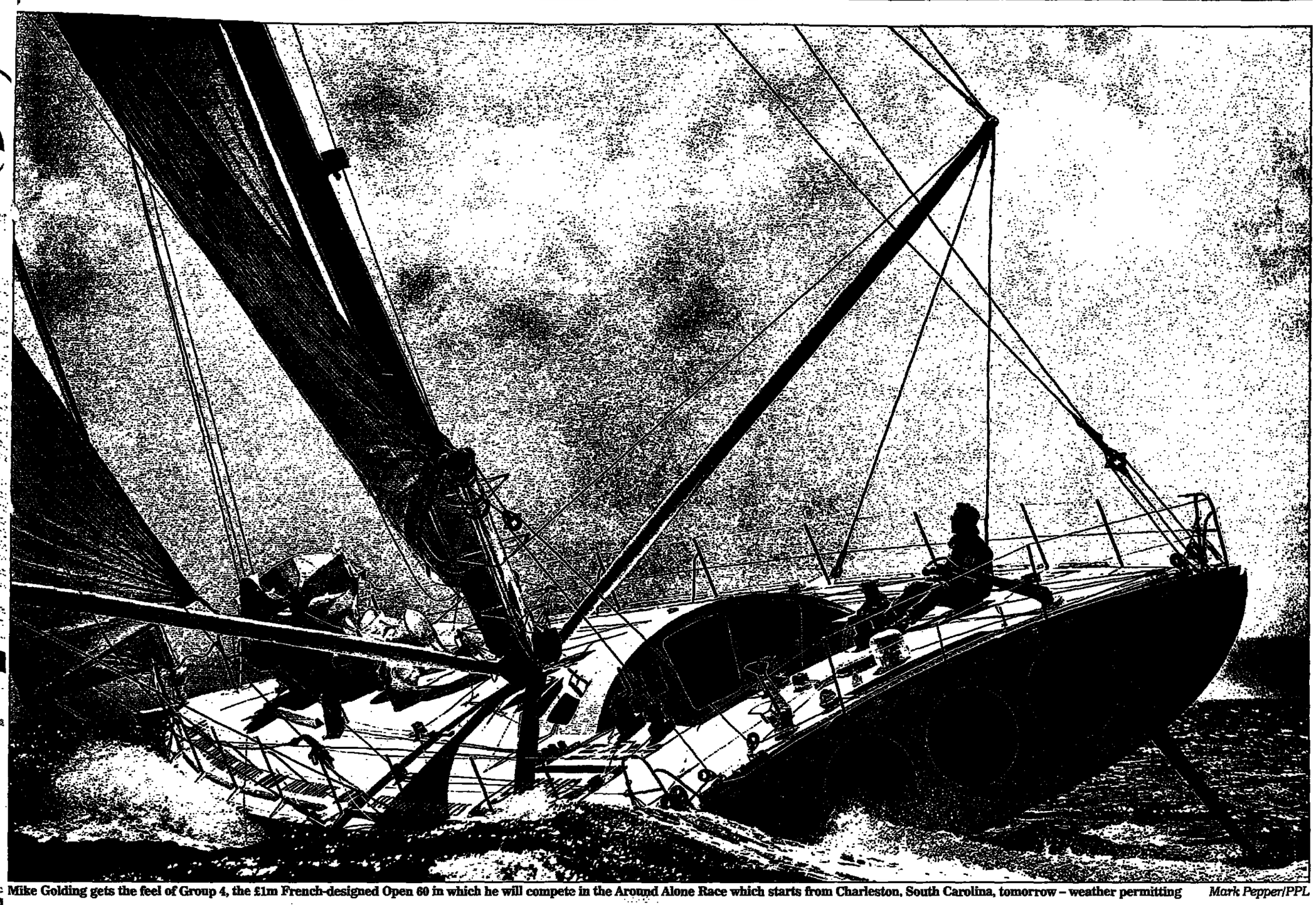
If there is a weak link in the Spanish line-up it could be the doubles pairing of Julian Alonso and Javier Sanchez. Spain have not won a Davis Cup doubles rubber for more than two years – by contrast, Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti have made Davis Cup Saturdays a time for celebration in Sweden. Bjorkman, the World No 13 who almost single-handedly pulled Sweden through their quarter-final against Germany by winning three matches, said: "Spain are a strong team but at home with the crowd behind you, you always want to play your best."

Carl-Axel Hageskog, the Sweden captain, has called up the 23-year-old Thomas Johansson, the United States Open quarter-finalist, for his first taste of Davis Cup action. Johansson meets Carlos Moya in the second singles match, and Hageskog said: "He's ready for the big moment."

Johansson agreed. "Yes, I'm ready," he said. "I'm very happy to be one of the singles players. I like the indoor court. It's getting faster and faster. The low bounce is important for us."

At the age of 10, Johansson was a ball boy when Stefan Edberg clinched Sweden's 1988 quarter-final victory over Czechoslovakia at Norrköping, not too far away from his home town of Linköping.

"That's when I saw a Davis Cup match live for the first time," Johansson recalled. "After that I followed almost every Davis Cup final. It's going to be a very special feeling to play Spain in Stockholm."



Mike Golding gets the feel of Group 4, the £1m French-designed Open 60 in which he will compete in the Around Alone Race which starts from Charleston, South Carolina, tomorrow – weather permitting *Mark Pepper/PPL*

Crowded world of the ocean racers

Sailing round the globe used to be for heroes. Now package trips ride the same waves as the professionals. By **Stuart Alexander**

HURRICANE GEORGES is only a temporary hiccough for the 16 yachtsmen scheduled to leave Charleston, South Carolina, tomorrow in the singlehanded Around Alone Race. Other storms await them in the desolation of the Southern Ocean, as they make their way round the world via South Africa, Australia and Uruguay.

However, Georges' successors could be one of the wilder cards thrown at the 100 adventurers who start their transatlantic leg from Plymouth next month in the Clipper Race.

Whereas the Round Alone is for the experienced ocean sailor, the Clipper features seven, professionally skippered, 60ft boats with up to 14 crew who have paid to sail all the way round or individual stages. A more relaxed, six-stage, 10-month voyage takes them to Nassau, Hawaii, Japan, Hong Kong, the Seychelles, Durban, Salvador and the Azores.

Yesterday in Plymouth, Robin Knox-Johnston, a racer and adventurer who simultaneously held the records for the slowest and fastest non-stop trips around the globe, was focused on final training for the latest recruits to his Clipper Race. But he had a moment to think of the Round Alone and the likes of Mike Golding in Group 4, Josh Hall, in Gartmore Investments, and Mike Garside, in Magellan Alpha, all carrying the British flag first raised by solo-legend Francis Chichester in 1967.

"I feel total empathy with the single-handers," he said. "I am with them in spirit right now, perhaps even a little envious." He still feels that the pinnacle of all his achievements is his 313-day epic in the 33ft Suhaili in 1969, when he became the first man to sail around the world alone, non-stop port-to-port (the Frenchman, Bernard Moitessier, had gone round the world a month earlier but chose to keep on going "to save my soul" and 301 days later fetched up in Tahiti). "We did not know if it was even possible," he said. "The fun was in being a pathfinder."

There has since been what seems a never-ending cycle of people sailing round the world, with Knox-Johnston's Clipper taking the sunnier route and Chay Blyth's BT Challenge (another paid-for package) the more painful one. Both provide opportunities for the man in the street – or at least the man who can raise £22,000 – to circumnavigate the globe. In addition, the final Whitbread Race, now called the Volvo Ocean Race, has just finished, the Vendée Globe non-stop singlehander starts next year, and a flat-out, Millennium-celebrating French initiative in giant multihulls, called simply The Race, casts off on 31 December 2000.

The 26,000-mile, four-leg Round Alone race is not just another day at the office for Golding. Even though he will be going round the world for the fourth time this will be his first experience of racing the conventional route. One of the ironic facts about sailing around against the winds and currents, as he has done so far, is that you spend less time hurtling dangerously downwind under spinnaker. Instead, you just strap things in and wait for the pain of the slog upwind to go away. Now he has to be able to push instead of easing off the throttle.

The transition from grand tourer to grand prix is putting Golding's reputation on the line much more publicly than his foray into round-the-buoys Admiral's Cup racing, which he did with a Mumm 36 in 1995, when he was clearly uncomfortable about having to hand over some aspects of running the boat to specialists. He is now back being his own master.

David Alan-Williams, in talking about taking the 92-foot catamaran, Enza, on a world-record breaking run around the world, with Knox-Johnston and Peter Blake, put it in context. It is, he says, like taking a racing car on to the motorway, in the pitch dark and in pouring rain, your right foot almost buried in the floor. Then, you turn off the headlights. Then, still flat out, you swing on to a cobbled road.

The singlehanders have to know when to lift the right foot, and Golding is particularly aware that he must sail conservatively on the first leg to Cape Town. The mantra of first having to finish if you are going to finish first is repeated at every opportunity in sailing. He has gone for a full whistles-and-bells new 60-foot boat with swinging keel and wing mast in a bid to beat the two favourites, Giovanni Soldini, of Italy, and Isobel Autissier, of France. Hall, in contrast, though his hull was built from the same mould as Golding's in Cherbourg, has a conventional keel and mast and is putting his faith in simplicity, reliability, and being the lightest of the 60-footers. He is also hoping to avoid colliding with a drifting container lost overboard from a cargo ship, which sank his boat on the first leg last time out.

Autissier, too, sank when leading on the second leg and had to be rescued by the Australian Navy, who have a rather good reputation for that sort of thing, given their hand in saving the singlehander Tony Bullimore, who spent five days inside his up-turned boat in the Southern Ocean.

Pete Goss, a former Royal Marine also did a good job saving Raphael Dinelli. As Goss prepares for The Race, he may be pleased to know that the youngest of Knox-Johnston's disciples, 18-year-old Gareth Venning, of Redruth, is doing the first leg courtesy of a generous godfather before applying for a career in the Marines.

Zuccoli revels in calm waters of Torquay

TORQUAY LIKES to be known as the English Riviera – and yesterday's Mediterranean autumn conditions were clearly to the liking of the 1996 European champion Giorgio Zuccoli in the mid-stages of the Melges 24 World Championship, writes **Stuart Alexander**.

The Italian lake sailor revelled in the soft, five to eight knot, winds, hammering in a first and a second place to top the 93-boat fleet with four races still to run.

Chasing in second place is the American Brian Porter, whose fourth and sixth underline the consistency he has shown throughout, while strongly in the hunt in third is the Olympic silver medallist Ian Walker, who had to take over from Vince Brun, who was taken to hospital with a severe back injury.

The reigning British champion, Rob Smith, was one of 10 to be black flag disqualified from the second race of the day.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 100 YEARS

1898: The American Joshua Slocum, in Spray, completes 46,000 miles in three years to circumnavigate the world for the first private voyage.

1965-70: The 16-year-old Robin Lee Graham, aboard Dove, sets out from California on the youngest solo circumnavigation. He finished in his second boat, Spirit of Dove, through the Panama Canal five years later.

1967: Francis Chichester, in Gypsy Moth IV, goes round the world in 226 days.

1968-69: Robin Knox-Johnston in Suhaili wins the Golden Globe trophy as the first man to sail alone around the world non-stop in 313 days.

1970 Chay Blyth sails in British Steel the wrong way, clockwise, around the world non-stop in 292 days.

1973-74: First fully crewed Whitbread Round the World Race won by Brazil's Ramon Carlin in Sayula II.

1978: Kristyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz is first woman to sail, in Mazurek, round the world. Naomi James is first woman, in Express Crusader, to pass the five great Capes around the world.

1982-83: The first BOC Around Alone Race won by Philippe Jeantot, in Credit Agricole, in 159 days.

1988: The first woman non-stop is Australia's Kay Cottee, who took 189 days in Blackmore's First Lady.

1989: The fastest single-handed, non-stop time of 109 days is set by Titouan Lamazou aboard Lada Poch III in the Vendée Globe.

1992-93: First British Steel wrong way round the world challenge for amateurs.

1996-97: First Clipper Race for amateurs.

FORTHCOMING RACES

1998-99: Around Alone singlehanded with stops.

1998-99: Second Clipper Race for amateurs.

1999-2000: BT Challenge for amateurs.

1999-2000: Vendée Globe non-stop singlehanded.

2000-2001: The Race, fastest non-stop round the world.

2001-02: Volvo Ocean Race (formerly Whitbread Round the World Race).

Uncapped Mayer wins call to Scottish squad

RUGBY UNION

SCOTLAND HAVE announced a 27-man squad for their four autumn internationals against New Zealand Maoris, South Africa and the two Rugby World Cup qualifying matches against Portugal and Spain – all at Murrayfield.

The only uncapped player in the squad is Jamie Mayer, the Edinburgh Reivers centre. The former Scottish Schools and Scotland Under-21 cap has established himself in the Edinburgh Reivers side ahead of the British Lions Scott Hastings and Alan Tait and now looks a strong bet to win his first Scotland jersey this season. "Jamie was one of the finds on the tour of Australia," Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, said.

The notable absentees from the squad are Tony Stanger, who finds himself behind James Craig, Cammie Murray and Shaun Longstaff for the wing position, the British Lion Craig Chalmers, who has had to understudy Duncan Hodge in the Edinburgh Reivers side, and Derrick Lee, who played in all three Tests on the Scotland tour of Fiji and Australia.

Commenting on the omission of Chalmers, Telfer said: "We believe the best two stand-offs just now are Gregor Townsend and Duncan Hodge. Gregor has played eight matches for Brive at both stand-off and inside centre. We will watch him this weekend against Portugal in the European Shield game."

In the forwards, there is a return to the squad for the British Lion Tom Smith, who missed all of last season because of a serious groin injury. "It is great to have him back in the squad. I just hope that people don't expect too much from him too soon," Telfer said.

. Bristol yesterday signed George Leaupepe, the Western Samoan World Cup centre, on a two-year contract. The 24-year-old Wellington Hurricanes Super 12 player, who featured against England in the 1995 World Cup and helped Western Samoa secure a quarter-final tie with the eventual winners South Africa, will join his new team-mates late next month. He is currently involved with Western Samoa's World Cup qualifying campaign in Australia, then has National Provincial Championship commitments in New Zealand for Manukau, where his colleagues include Jonah Lomu and Joeli Vidiri, the All Black wings.

Jos Baxendell, who made his England debut during last summer's Southern Hemisphere tour, is set to return at fly-half for Manchester Sale when they face Harlequins at Heywood Road tomorrow.

Baxendell came through a development team game against Saracens on Tuesday without reaction to a rib injury.

SCOTLAND SQUAD (Autumn tours): Backs: G Armstrong (Newcastle Falcons), **J Craig** (Glasgow Caledonians), **H Gilmour** (Edinburgh Reivers), **D Hodge** (Edinburgh Reivers), **S Longstaff** (Glasgow Caledonians), **J Mayer** (Edinburgh Reivers), **G Metcalfe** (Glasgow Caledonians), **C Murray** (Edinburgh Reivers), **B Redpath** (Edinburgh Reivers), **R Shepherd** (Edinburgh Reivers), **A Tait** (Edinburgh Reivers), **G Townsend** (Brive). **Forwards: G Bulloch** (Glasgow Caledonians), **S Grimes** (Glasgow Caledonians), **D Hilton** (Bath), **C Mather** (Edinburgh Reivers), **G McKelvey** (Edinburgh Reivers), **K McKenzie** (Glasgow Caledonians), **G McIlwham** (Glasgow Caledonians), **S Murray** (Bedford), **E Peters** (Bath), **M Proudfoot** (Edinburgh Reivers), **A Ross-burgh** (Edinburgh Reivers), **G Simpson** (Glasgow Caledonians), **T Smith** (Glasgow Caledonians), **R Wainwright** (Glasgow Caledonians), **D Weir** (Newcastle Falcons)

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 25 September 1998

Sales ring gets ready to salute the super mare

Reprocolor heads a racing dynasty so great that their exploits take up a whole page of a top bloodstock catalogue. By Sue Montgomery

NEXT WEEK the great and the good of the bloodstock world, gathered in the Tattersalls arena at Newmarket for the annual spending frenzy that is the Houghton Sales, will have the opportunity to salute a remarkable old lady. She is the broodmare Reprocolor, who has achieved, as a result of not only her fecundity but the quality of her offspring, the unique distinction of a whole page to herself in the catalogue of Europe's premier bloodstock auction.

Reprocolor's latest yearling, a colt by Warning, is scheduled to come under the hammer on Wednesday afternoon. He is the 16th of the line; his big brothers and sisters and nephews and nieces have been distinguishing themselves at the highest level of competition through two decades. The latest Group One winner among them is Kayf Tara, who only last Saturday added the Irish St Leger to the family tally.

The story of this queen mum is almost as outrageous as the exploits of the dynasty descended from her. Any breeder of racehorses would die for just one like her but, in fact, she was part of an inspired triple whammy executed 21 years ago by the then-fledgeling Meon Valley Stud with the guidance of the Newmarket agent Richard Galpin. The foundations of what is now the country's leading commercial nursery were well and truly laid by the selection of three fillies, on the basis of their bloodlines and looks, at the 1977 Tattersalls yearling sales: Odeon, One In A Million, Reprocolor.

Odeon, a daughter of Royal And Regal, bought for 38,000 guineas (in those days the Houghton average price was 14,164gns; next week it will be more like 100,000gns), won the Galtres Stakes, gained placings in the Ascot Fillies' Mile (on Sunday, in its 25th renewal, sponsored by Meon Valley), Nassau, Park Hill, Sun Chariot, Musidora and Princess Royal Stakes and became grand-dam of the Oaks winner Lady Carla.

One In A Million (18,500gns), by Rarity, did even better. She won the 1,000 Guineas and Coronation Stakes; produced the superlative filly Milligram, who was beaten by Miesque in the 1,000 Guineas, then took her revenge in an epic Queen Elizabeth II Stakes 11 years ago tomorrow; is grand-dam of One So Wonderful and great grand-dam of the infinitely promising Kissogram.

Reprocolor (25,000gns), a chestnut by Jimmy Reppin, won the Pretty Polly Stakes, the Lingfield Oaks Trial and the Lancashire Oaks, ran fourth in the Oaks and third in the Yorkshire Oaks.

Odeon and One In A Million are now dead, but the last of the three musketeers is still soldiering on. Reprocolor gave birth to a Mark Of Esteem colt earlier this year and is expecting her 18th baby, again by the 1996 QEII winner, next spring. In all her years at stud, she has failed to conceive only once.

The qualities that produce an outstanding broodmare are many and varied and impossible to quantify or dogmatise. In terms of lineage Reprocolor was the best produce of a top-class miler who was a largely ordinary sire, out of a mare who showed zero talent on the track but was a half-sister to a gifted sprinter in Sandford Lad. Some would point to the several crosses of the potent influence of Tourbillon in her pedigree. She is also completely free of any genetic endowment from Nearco, which makes her and her family ideal matches for the Mill Reef and Northern Dancer tribes.

As far as nurture, as opposed to nature, is concerned, the chalk-based, calcium-rich Hampshire downland on which she and her descendants have grazed and thrived must be a factor. And along with heredity and environment, there is also opportunity. The bearers of the now-famous black, white spots of Meon Valley's company arm, Helena Springfield, and those sold elsewhere, invariably get their chance in high-calibre stables.

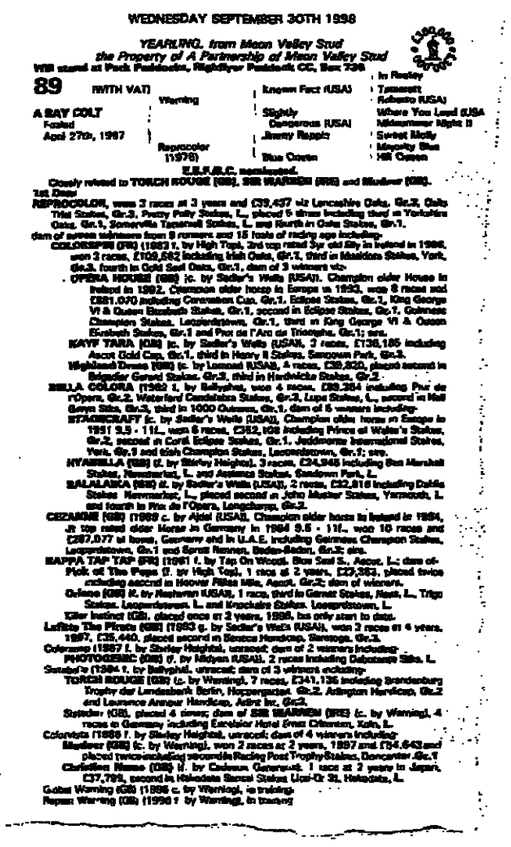
And perhaps personality, too, comes into the equation. "Reprocolor is a grand old-fashioned type of mare, a lovely individual," the stud groom, David Wymbs, said. "And she also has a sweet temperament that she passes on. Any trainer is pleased to have one of hers in the yard."

There are 26 mares resident at Meon Valley, where Reprocolor, hale and hearty at the age of 22, presides over six of her daughters, six grand-daughters and one great grand-daughter. The matriarchy includes the Irish Oaks winner Colorspin, dam of two Group One winners in Opera House and Kayf Tara; Guineas-placed Bella Colora, with the high-class 10-furlong runner Stagecraft to her credit; and Rappa Tap Tap, on whom many future hopes are pinned through her much-vaunted Zafonic two-year-old Killer Instinct.

The general principle on which the big commercial outfits operate is to sell the colts and race the fillies, though Meon Valley, with its embarassment of riches, can afford to offer some from the distaff side. At last year's Houghton auction, the stud's consignment grossed nearly £3m; next week the 12 colts and three fillies coming up include two potential sale-toppers, Rainbow Quest colts out of Colorspin and One So Wonderful's half-sister, Relatively Special.

For a stud to adopt the slogan "the cradle of the Classic thoroughbred" might have been tempting fate but so far – thanks to the amalgam of luck and good judgement that is so necessary around horses – the Meon Valley bough remains intact.

Mothering son day: Stud groom Ian Ford holds Reprocolor (right) and her foal by Mark Of Esteem *Robert Hallam*



WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH 1998

YEARLING, from Meon Valley Stud
the Property of A Partnership of Meon Valley Stud
Will stand at Park Paddocks, Highclyer Paddock CC, Box 736

89 (WITH VAT)

A BAY COLT
Foaled April 27th, 1997

Warning — Reprocolor (1976)
Known Fact (USA) — Slightly Dangerous (USA)
Jimmy Reppin — Blue Corsair
In Reality — Turnpert
Roberto (USA)
Where You Lead (USA)
Midsummer Night II
Sweet Molly
Majority Blue
Hill Cotton

E.L.F.B.C. nominated.

Closely related to TORCH ROUGE (GB), SIR WARREN (IRE) and Mudawar (GB).

1st Dam

REPROCOLOR, won 2 races at 3 years and £39,437 viz Lancashire Oaks, Gr.3, Oaks Trial Stakes, Gr.3, Pretty Polly Stakes, L., placed 5 times including third in Yorkshire Oaks, Gr.1, Somerville Tattersall Stakes, L. and fourth in Oaks Stakes, Gr.1.
dam of seven winners from 8 runners and 15 foals of racing age including:

COLORSPIN (FR) (1983) f. by High Top, 3rd top rated 3yr old filly in Ireland in 1986, won 3 races, £109,582 including Irish Oaks, Gr.1, third in Maidden Stakes, York, Gr.3, fourth in Cold Seal Oaks, Gr.1, dam of 3 winners inc-
- OPERA HOUSE (GB) (c. by Sadler's Wells (USA)), Champion older horse in Ireland in 1992, Champion older horse in Europe in 1993, won 8 races and £881,070 including Coronation Cup, Gr.1, Eclipse Stakes, Gr.1, King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes, Gr.1, second in Eclipse Stakes, Gr.1, Guinness Champion Stakes, Leopardstown, Gr.1, third in King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes, Gr.1 and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Gr.1; sire.
- KAYF TARA (GB) (c. by Sadler's Wells (USA)), 2 races, £136,185 including Ascot Gold Cup, Gr.1, third in Henry II Stakes, Sandown Park, Gr.3.
- Highland Chorus (GB) (c. by Lomond (USA)), 4 races, £39,825, placed second in Brigadier Gerard Stakes, Gr.3, third in Hardwicke Stakes, Gr.3.

BELLA COLORA (1982) f. by Ballyphilip, won 4 races, £89,284 including Prix de l'Opera, Gr.2, Waterford Candelabra Stakes, Gr.3, Lupe Stakes, L., second in Nell Gwynn Stks, Gr.3, third in 1000 Guineas, Gr.1, dam of 6 winners including:
- STAGECRAFT (c. by Sadler's Wells (USA)), Champion older horse in Europe in 1991 9.5 - 11f., won 6 races, £512,108 including Prince of Wales's Stakes, Gr.2, second in Coral Eclipse Stakes, Gr.1, Juddmonte International Stakes, York, Gr.1 and Irish Champion Stakes, Leopardstown, Gr.1; sire.
- HYABELLA (GB) (f. by Shirley Heights), 3 races, £34,946 including Sun Marshall Stakes, Newmarket, L. and Jessamy Stakes, Sandown Park, L.
- BALALAIKA (GB) (f. by Sadler's Wells (USA)), 2 races, £32,816 including Dahlia Stakes, Newmarket, L., placed second in John Musker Stakes, Yarmouth, L. and fourth in Prix de l'Opera, Longchamp, Gr.2.

CEZANNE (GB) (1989) c. by Ajdal (USA), Champion older horse in Ireland in 1994, Jt top rated older horse in Germany in 1994 9.5 - 11f., won 10 races and £267,077 at home, Germany and in U.A.E. including Guinness Champion Stakes, Leopardstown, Gr.1 and Grosser Preis, Baden-Baden, Gr.2; sire.

RAPPA TAP TAP (FR) (1991) f. by Top On Wheels, Blue Seal S., Ascot, L.; dam of-
Pick of The Pops (f. by High Top), 1 race at 2 years, £29,363, placed twice including second in Hoover Fillies Mile, Ascot, Gr.2; dam of winners.
Odeon (GB) (f. by Nashwan (USA)), 1 race, third in Garrat Stakes, Rom. L., Trigo Stakes, Leopardstown, L. and Rockfeld Stakes, Leopardstown, L.
Killer Instinct (GB), placed once at 2 years, 1998, his only start to date.

Lafitte The Pirate (GB) (1993) g. by Sadler's Wells (USA), won 2 races at 4 years, 1997, £35,440, placed second in Bentinck Handicap, Stronge, Gr.3.

Coleraine (1987) f. by Shirley Heights, unraced; dam of 2 winners including:
PHOTOGENIC (GB) (f. by Midyan (USA)), 2 races including Debutante Stks, L.

Sadler's (1984) f. by Ballyphilip, unraced; dam of 3 winners including:
TORCH ROUGE (GB) (c. by Warning), 7 races, £341,136 including Brandenburg Trophy der Landesbank Berlin, Hoppegarten, Gr.2, Arlington Handicap, Gr.2 and Lawrence Annual Handicap, Ashtd Inc., Gr.3.
Sadler (GB), placed 4 times; dam of SIR WARREN (IRE) (c. by Warning), 4 races in Germany including Excelsior Hotel Ernst Cup, Koln, L.

Colorsyta (1989) f. by Shirley Heights, unraced; dam of 4 winners including:
Mudawar (GB) (c. by Warning), won 2 races at 2 years, 1997 and £94,643 and placed Irish Nestlé Stakes, Curragh Racing Post Trophy Stakes, Doncaster, Gr.1
Christine Rome (GB) (f. by Caerleon (USA)), 1 race at 2 years in Japan, £37,795, second in Hokudai Sanai Stakes, Usui-Gr 3, Hokudai, L.

Gobat Warning (GB) (1996) c. by Warning, in training
Repon Warning (GB) (1998) f. by Warning, in training

Page girl: the Reprocolor family record makes a lengthy read

HAYDOCK

HYPERION

2.20 Oak Vintage
2.50 Santandre (nb)
3.20 Fahs
3.50 Spirit Of Love
4.20 Musical Twist
4.50 GRANGEVILLE (nap)

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: 7f & 1m – inside; 6f, 1m 2f & 1m 4f – outside; 1m 6f – centre.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 6f on soft ground.
■ Almost flat, oval course; straight 6f course.
■ Course is near junction of A580 and M6. Newton station 2m. **ADMISSION:** County Stand £15; Tattersalls £9; Newton Stand £450 (OAPs & Students half-price in Tattersalls and Newton Stand). **CAR PARK:** Free.
■ **LEADING TRAINERS:** J Dunlop 30-123 (24.4%), B Hills 24-98 (24.5%), J Gosden 24-117 (20.5%), H Cecil 22-54 (40.7%), J Berry 17-205 (8.3%), Mrs M Reveley 14-94 (14.9%).
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** Pat Eddery 30-98 (30.6%), K Darley 22-193 (11.4%), K Fallon 19-134 (14.2%), J Carroll 19-214 (8.9%), T Sprake 16-77 (20.8%), J Reid 16-98 (16.3%).
■ **FAVOURITES:** 224-657 (34.1%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

2.20 DENTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 2f 120yds Penalty Value £3,518

1 0 ELEGANT FAN (USA) (162) (The Thoroughbred Corporation) C Brittain 9 0 ..... T Sprake 4
2 0 STERO HEIGHTS (10) (Gainsborough Stud Management) E Dunlop 9 0 ..... S Whitworth 5
3 0-5223 ANDALISH (17) (BF) (K Abdulla) B Hills 8 9 ..... Pat Eddery 7
4 APRIL SPIRIT (Mrs B Ramsden) R Hollinshead 8 9 ..... R Ffrench 3
5 0 JAZZY (26) (T Hurst) J Norton 8 9 ..... J Quinn 6
6 05 OAK VINTAGE (USA) (76) (BF) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8 9 ..... G Hind 2
7 336 RAQQASA (75) (Lord Howard De Walden) H Cecil 8 9 ..... K Fallon 1

BETTING: 6-5 Andalish, 6-4 Raqqasa, 9-2 Oak Vintage, 16-1 Stero Heights, 25-1 Elegant Fan, 33-1 others
1997: Sunny Isle 3 8 9 J Reid 7-4 fav (C Wall) drawn (1) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

Elegant Fan: Apparently well-regarded (originally classic entered) $230,000 yearling by *Lear Fan*, ran as if he had a problem when tailed off last in Newmarket maiden (1m, soft) on his debut back in April
Stero Heights: Shirley Heights half-brother to smart Cadeaux Tryst made some late headway when 7th to Royal Fontaine at Sandown (1m 2f, good) last week
Andalish: Has been running into a place in ordinary maidens, most recently when 3rd, beaten 2½ lengths behind Gleaming Hill at Leicester (1m 2f, good to soft)
April Spirit: A filly by Nomination out of winning stayer and hurdler Seraphim
Jazzy: Alhijaz filly who cost only 1,000gns from Cumani stable this year, showed nothing behind Pleasant Dreams in a Ripon (1m, soft) claimer on her debut
Oak Vintage: $310,000 yearling made promising debut at Kempton and was subsequently warm favourite when disappointing 5th of 6th in a Lingfield (1m 1f, good to firm) maiden in July
Raqqasa: Stoutly-bred filly who looked sure to pick up a race after two promising placed efforts but ran poorly in a Newbury maiden (1m 4f, good) last month

VERDICT: Andalish has run well in this type of event but always seems to find one too good for her, while Raqqasa returns to the distance of her best run to date, her debut second place at Newcastle. She looks sure to go close if reproducing that form, as does **OAK VINTAGE**. From a stable whose unraced three-year-olds tend to take a race or two to find their form, she can be forgiven her poor run at Lingfield where she reportedly lost her action.

2.50 HIGH LEGH NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,600 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £3,485

1 12400 DREAMING (16) (D) (Cheveley Park Stud) Sir M Prescott 9 7 ..... G Duffield 13
2 626 MUNDAHISH (27) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) P Makeyn 9 5 ..... J Carroll 7
3 444460 SANTANDRE (13) (Geoff Lloyd) R Hollinshead 9 1 ..... Pat Eddery 5
4 60003 DOLPHINELLE (23) (Tommy Staunton) R Hannon 9 0 ..... R Hughes 10 8
5 16201 MAMMAS F-C (21) (CD) (G Tirbocchi) J Berry 8 13 ..... P Fearey 6
6 103400 COLLEGE MUSIC (13) (Mel Brittain) M Brittain 8 7 ..... D Mernagh (5) 4
7 50506 ROEMOOR GIRL (4) (Jimm Racing) R Hannon 8 6 ..... Dane O'Neill 2
8 400230 MONTAGUE TIGG (13) (Bcz) N Tinkler 8 6 ..... J Reid 11
9 010 CLUNIE (4) (D) (BF) (Tony Hirschfeld) W Haggas 8 6 (7ex) ..... K Darley 9
10 630031 ISLE OF SODOR (4) (D) (Aukyn Stud Ltd) K Hogg 8 6 (7ex) ..... Dean McKeown 12
11 41530 KILBOWIE HILL (11) (D) (Clayton Bigley Partnership Ltd) D McCain 8 3 ..... L Charnock 3
12 00000 ALLRIGHTHEN (21) (L R Parry) T Wall 8 1 ..... A Mackay 8
13 0560 PANDJOJOE (13) (J Dixon) R Fahey 7 13 ..... J Quinn 1
– 13 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Dreaming, 6-1 Isle Of Sodor, 7-1 Dolphinelle, 8-1 Mundahish, Mammas F-C, Clunie, 10-1 Santandre, Montague Tigg, Pandjojoe, 12-1 others
1997: Khoyrah 2 9 6 R Hills 6-4 fav (E Dunlop) drawn (3) 11 ran

FORM GUIDE

Dreaming: A maiden winner at Wolverhampton back in June, she failed to make an impression last time behind Ghaneenah in a Doncaster (6f, good) nursery
Mundahish: Promising runs in first two maidens, may have found a mile too far when beaten 5 lengths in a Newmarket (good to firm) maiden last month
Santandre: Winner of a 5f nursery at Thirsk in July, has looked below form since, though signs of a return last time when staying on eighth at Doncaster (6f, good to firm). Normally claimer ridden, jockey booking looks significant
Dolphinelle: Appeared galvanised by first-time blinkers last month when fast finishing third in a Brighton (5f, good to firm) nursery, beaten ¾ length
Mammas F-C: Showed a liking for this track and trip when taking a claimer here three weeks ago (Allrighthen back in 8th). Previously burdened by top weight when finishing last of eight at Catterick on her nursery debut
College Music: A Maiden winner at Newcastle in May, she has since run some very patchy races, though has dropped a few pounds since her nursery debut
Roemoor Girl: Makes a quick reappearance after finishing sixth, 5l behind Isle of Sodor (7lb worse off) at Leicester (6f, good to firm) on Monday. Also had Clunie (5lb worse off) 2l back in eighth
Montague Tigg: Has run well in three nurseries on the trot, including when 4½ lengths 9th behind Astonished at Doncaster last time. Looks on a handy mark
Clunie: Started joint-favourite to defy a penalty at Leicester on Monday but could never get in a blow after being off the early pace. Previously won a Nottingham (6f) nursery on good to soft ground (Kilbowie Hill 9 lengths back in 7th)
Isle of Sodor: Busy filly has hit form in the last week, finishing third over 7f at Catterick on Saturday before winning at Leicester on Monday
Kilbowie Hill: Consistent filly who has won on the all-weather at Wolverhampton. Looks held by Clunie (7lb worse off) on her last run at Nottingham.
Allrighthen: Shown little in maidens before his last run when 4 lengths 8th behind Mammas F-C in a claimer here (17lb worse off) at 50-1. May spring a surprise
Pandjojoe: Had both Montague Tigg and Santandre in front of him when 11th of 22, 5l behind Astonished at Doncaster (6f, good to firm), and looks held

VERDICT: Of the three who raced at Leicester on Monday, Isle Of Sodor looks likely to come out on top again in spite of her penalty. She is in great heart at the moment and as her stable intend to put her away for the season after this run they will obviously be hoping to go out on a winning note. She may have most to fear from **SANTANDRE**, an early season winner who will have the benefit of Pat Eddery in the saddle today.

3.20 49'S WHITWORTH HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £7,523

1 -00203 MOTET (41) (A E Oppenheimer) G Wragg 4 10 0 ..... J Reid 2 8
2 56-60 SLIPPER (38) (Lord Hallifax) L Cumani 3 9 4 ..... R Ffrench 4
3 354403 FAHS (USA) (9) (D) (City Industrial Supplies Ltd) G Lewis 6 9 2 ..... N Day 11
4 314 ABI (47) (Old Road Securities Plc) H Cecil 3 9 1 ..... K Fallon 8
5 212633 MASAMADAS (28) (D) (M Tibrocki) C Wall 3 9 0 ..... G Hind 6
6 403250 COLWAY RITZ (20) (BF) (R Coleman) W Storey 4 9 0 ..... J Carroll 3
7 43421 RAINBOW WAYS (48) (D) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 3 8 13 ..... K Darley 8 8
8 30420 ALLGRIT (USA) (27) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 3 8 11 ..... Pat Eddery 9
9 40254 ABSOLUTE UTOPIA (USA) (30) (D) (BF) (M T Lawrance) N Berry 5 8 10 ..... Dane O'Neill 7
10 232133 MINIVET (16) (Sir Thomas Pilkington) M Bell 3 8 9 ..... R Mullen (5) 1
11 305426 SILVERTOWN (16) (Mrs B J Curley) B Curley 3 7 10 ..... J Quinn 10
– 11 declared –

BETTING: 11-2 Slipper, 13-2 Colway Ritz, Masamadas, 7-1 Abi, 8-1 Allgrit, Fahs, 10-1 Minivet, Motet, Rainbow Ways, Silvertown, 12-1 Absolute Utopia
1997: Manul 3 9 0 R Hills 8-1 (J Gosden) drawn (5) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE

Motet: Ran well to finish 3 lengths third to Moweiga at Newbury (1m 4f good to firm) last month, especially since his best form is over further. Has previously run poorly in blinkers
Slipper: Raised 7lb since impressive handicap debut win at Lingfield, she continued in good form despite being hampered when 7th, five lengths behind Blueprint in a valuable York (1m 6f, firm) handicap last month
Fahs: Versatile handicapper who returned to form after running on unsuitably soft ground to finish 2 lengths 3rd to Gleaming Hill at Yarmouth (1m 2f, good)
Abi: Hampered when 4th behind Sick As A Parrot on his handicap debut at Redcar last month, (Masamadas 2 lengths ahead and 1lb better off) previously best stablemate King Tango in a Pontefract maiden
Masamadas: Classy handicapper now 10lb higher than when an easy winner at Windsor in May. Closely handicapped with Abi on their running at Redcar
Colway Ritz: Apparently given too much to do by claiming jockey at Thirsk last time, he is normally consistent and won over the extended mile at Thirsk in July
Rainbow Ways: Started a hot favourite when making all in a four-runner maiden at Newmarket (1m 4f, firm) last month, having run well in similar events earlier
Allgrit: Appeared to have no excuses when 7th behind Infatuation at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm) last time, and may be in the grip of the handicapper
Absolute Utopia: Won over this distance at Kempton last month before failing to justify favouritism on the firm at Lingfield last time. Generally in good heart
Minivet: Showed continued well-being when staying-on 3rd at Chepstow (1m 2f, good to soft) a fortnight ago. Tackles this distance for the first time
Silvertown: Has run consistently since moving stables in July although probably found ground too soft behind Biladdie at Kempton (1m 4f) earlier this month

VERDICT: There is little to choose between **Abi** and **Masamadas** on Redcar running and they are both likely to be thereabouts in a very trappy handicap. The classy Slipper could go close but would possibly prefer further and it may pay to row in with the experienced FAHS. He has not won yet this season but has run consistently well in handicaps, has conditions in his favour and is on a tempting

3.50 CAVALRY HIRE STAKES (CLASS C) £7,750 added 1m 6f Penalty Value £4,687

1 145012 SECRET ARCHIVE (22) (Mohamed Suhail) R Hannon 3 8 9 ..... Dane O'Neill 1
2 22102 BRIMMING (16) (CD) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 3 8 4 ..... J Quinn 2
3 23111 SPIRIT OF LOVE (USA) (16) (A W Robinson) M Johnston 3 8 4 ..... J Carroll 3
– 3 declared –

BETTING: 19-11 Brimming, 15-8 Spirit Of Love, 7-2 Secret Archive
1997: The Faraway Tree 3 8 1 Paul Eddery 8-11 fav (G Wragg) drawn (2) 3 ran

FORM GUIDE

Secret Archive: Maintained improvement to beat The Editor a short-head in strong Newbury (1m 3f) handicap and gave Sadan a good fight in 3-runner conditions race at Salisbury (1m 6f). Lacks a genuine turn of foot and small field could be a problem
Brimming: Left behind poor Goodwood Cup effort when caught post by Spirit Of Love after making almost all at Doncaster (1m 7f hcap. 5lb better with the winner here
Spirit Of Love: Confirmed improvement shown in Ascot win over Island Story (2m) when battling on to beat Brimming (gave 5lb) at Doncaster. Open to further progress
VERDICT: Pace looks the problem here, and it could be in the hands of Kieren Fallon on **BRIMMING** to dictate matters. Cecils colt has the edge at the weights on official ratings and the champion may be able to keep sufficient up his sleeve to repel the progressive Spirit Of Love, who appeared to need every yard of this trip in a well-run handicap at Doncaster after scoring over 2m at Ascot.

4.20 J P M RESOURCES MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 7f Penalty Value £3,615

1 DALI (J R Good) B Meehan 9 0 ..... M Tebbutt 2
2 JACK REEF (L A Morgan) D McCain 9 0 ..... W J O'Connor 6
3 0 BESEECHING (31) (F C J Daly) J Toller 8 9 ..... J Reid 1
4 0 DHIRIMA (FR) (147) (Anthony Foster) W Jarvis 8 9 ..... K Fallon 5
5 0 FALSE DAWN (22) (F H Lee) M Mullineaux 8 9 ..... N Carlisle 7
6 65 KINGDOM RUBY (133) (G B Turnbull Ltd) Miss J A Camacho 8 9 ..... L Charnock 8
7 636340 MUSICAL TWIST (USA) (65) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 9 ..... R Havlin (3) 4
8 5-55 PENROSE (22) (Mashad Ali) B Hills 8 9 ..... Pat Eddery 11
9 5- RING THE RAFTERS (324) (BF) (Ms Joan M Chitnss) B Baugh 8 9 ..... G Hind 9
10 20 RUBY AFFAIR (56) (BF) (Peter and Noreen Hodgson) J Fanshawe 8 9 ..... D O'Donohoe 10
11 TAR BABY (Mrs Charles Lockhart) R Hollinshead 8 9 ..... R Ffrench 3
– 11 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Musical Twist, 3-1 Penrose, 9-2 Ruby Affair, 5-1 Kingdom Ruby, 10-1 Dhirima, 12-1 Dali, False Dawn, Ring The Rafters, 20-1 others
1997: Moonshiner 3 9 0 Paul Eddery 13-2 (G Wragg) drawn (6) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

Dali: Rock City gelding, half-brother to winning sprinter Saldarax. Stable has very low first-time strike-rate, so market probably the best guide
Jack Reef: Mystiko gelding, brother to a winner and half-brother to two others.
Beseeching: Bred to stay and always behind after slow start when 50-1 and 8 lengths seventh of 6 to Eljanah on Lingfield 6f debut last month
Dhirima: 20-1 shot, doing her best work close home when 10 lengths seventh of 15 to Jinskyah at Newmarket (7f) on debut in May. Sidelined since and probably best watched.
False Dawn: 33-1 and little evident promise when 16 lengths seventh of 8 to Queens Dagger at York (1m) on debut. Plenty to find
Kingdom Ruby: Degree of promise when staying-on 8 lengths fifth of 19 to Nuclear Debate at Thirsk (6f) in May. Open to improvement but 19-week lay-off does not bode well
Musical Twist: Early-season classic hope. Not living up to promise of 3 lengths third to Hawadeth in 1m maiden here in June. Last of 7, beaten 6 lengths, to Cornflower Fields at Leicester (7f hcap) on latest start. Has been tried in blinkers
Penrose: Yet to fulfil juvenile promise. Last to cover 11f when 4½ lengths fifth of 8 to Queens Dagger in similar event at York (1m). Shorter trip should suit
Ring The Rafters: Looked temperamental when 6 lengths fifth of 12 to Supreme Angel at Newbury (5f) 18 months ago for Ian Balding. Sidelined and changed hands since
Ruby Affair: Promising second to useful Prevalence on Kempton 7f debut in May but lost her bit in race won by My Desperado at Thirsk (1m) next time. Major contender
Tar Baby: Handsome Sadler filly, half-sister to 7f winner Midyan Queen
VERDICT: The form book points to **Musical Twist**, not disgraced in the Group Three Fred Darling in April, but she is looking disenchanted with the game and could be vulnerable to a more progressive type like Kingdom Ruby or **RUBY AFFAIR**, who showed promise on her debut and comes here with her yard on the crest of the wave.

4.50 LITTLEBOROUGH DREAM MILE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m Penalty Value £3,745

1 202241 RAZOR (17) (D) (Hrydoss) S C Williams 3 9 10 ..... K Darley 5
2 0-4010 ORSAY (13) (D) (D J Deer) W Muir 6 9 9 ..... J Reid 6
3 043621 GRANGEVILLE (USA) (8) (George Strawbridge) I Balding 3 9 9 (6ex) ..... S Whitworth 4
4 5-0030 BERGEN (8) (BF) (J Hanson) J Hanson 3 9 6 ..... E Johnson 1
5 062210 QUEENS CONSUL (13) (CD) (BF) (Miss Heather L Dawson) B Rothwell 8 9 3 ..... M Fenton 3
6 2K400 SUALTACH (13) (D) (Noel Sweeney) R Hollinshead 5 9 0 ..... Pat Eddery 9
7 30203 SHARP SHUFFLE (24) (D) (BF) (Mrs H F Prendergast) R Hannon 5 9 0 ..... R Hughes 2
8 -5550 FLOATING CHARGE (34) (BF) (L Curtis Partnership) J Fanshawe 4 8 11 ..... D O'Donohoe 7
9 522053 DRIVE ASSURED (32) (Peter Hood Racing Limited) C Brittain 4 8 11 ..... T Sprake 10
10 103400 NIGHT CHORUS (13) (D) (R M J MacNeill) B Rothwell 4 8 9 ..... G Duffield 11
11 66354 FALLS O'MONESS (7) (D) (Piquet Opera House Partnership) E Alston 4 7 10 ..... J Quinn 8
– 11 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Falls O'Moness 7st 4lb.
BETTING: 4-1 Grangeville, 9-2 Bergen, 11-2 Orsay, Queens Consul, 7-1 Razor, Floating Charge, 8-1 Drive Assured, 12-1 others
1997: Durald 5 9 0 C Lowther (5) 11-2 fav (D Smith) drawn (4) 17 ran

FORM GUIDE

Razor: Consistent performer in maiden company before leading close home to beat Adulation a head at Newcastle (1m mdn) but seems harshly treated on handicap debut
Orsay: Back to his best when beating subsequent winner Infatuation ¾ length at Sandown (1m 2f) from 3lb lower last month. Latest run beat overloaded (slipped entering straight)
Grangeville: Dramatic improvement under front-running tactics when beating Calforo an easy 3½ lengths at Sandown (7f). Has form at this trip and looks the one to beat
Bergen: Serious contender on improved 1½ lengths third to Pride Of Pendle in York handicap (1m), but disappointing 15th to Nominator Lad at Ayr (1m) last week
Queens Consul: Not the force of old but neck winner from Queens Consul at Thirsk (1m) from 3lb lower early this month. Well beaten from poor draw at Doncaster since
Sualtach: Hard-working but unpredictable performer, best on all-weather these days. Soon downed tools when 16th of 21 to Bowcliffe at Doncaster (1m) last time
Sharp Shuffle: Winner of seller and claimer at Newmarket in midsummer but runs little too in handicaps these days and well-beaten of this mark and higher this term 8-
Floating Charge: Possibly unexposed despite Redcar conditions contest (1m 1f) win over Burning Truth in July. Ran better than placings suggest when 13th of 17 to Honest Borderer at Ripon (1m 1f) last time and is back to best trip here
Drive Assured: Chance at weights on unlucky second to Don Pepe at Yarmouth in August and subsequent Chester run. Various excuses since but cannot be ruled out
Night Chorus: Slipping out of form since beating Brocture Gold at Musselburgh (1m) from 2lb higher in June. Beaten 13 lengths when 17th to Bowcliffe at Doncaster (1m)
Falls O'Moness: Winner of Thirsk seller from 12lb lower last month. Not disgraced when 8 lengths fourth of 15 to Desert Sand in Ayr 1m 1f claimer latest but stiff task at weights
VERDICT: This presents a fairly straightforward task for **GRANGEVILLE** on his much improved Sandown running under new forcing tactics. He was worth a good deal more than his 3½ lengths winning margin and a 6lb penalty should not stop him.

Jo Mell out of Ascot Festival

JO MELL will miss the Festival Handicap at Ascot tomorrow. Tim Easterby's five-year-old won the £50,000 race last year and has, once again, this season shown his liking for Ascot's seven furlongs with an easy victory in the International Handicap last month.

But the 14-1 chance has now been forced to miss tomorrow's contest, having failed to recover from a bruised foot sustained at the end of last week. Easterby's father, Peter, said: "He's had a bit of gravel and the bruising has flared up again. Time has beaten us. We haven't any plans for him. We'll make some plans when he's sound again."

Saeed bin Suroor yesterday confirmed that Sea Wave is likely to be the sole Godolphin challenger in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp a week on Sunday. Daylami, winner of the Man O'War Stakes at Belmont 12 days ago, is also a Godolphin entry in the race but connections favour the Champion Stakes at Newmarket on 17 October.

The Newmarket trainer said: "We need to give Daylami time and I think he will run in the Champion Stakes. We haven't decided finally and will keep our options open but I think we need to give him time."

Sea Wave, successful in York's Great Voltigeur Stakes in August, embarrassed Frankie Dettori when ducking left and unshipping him shortly after the start of the Prix Niel at Longchamp a week last Sunday.

His antics in the Arc trial led bin Suroor to introduce stalls tests into his work to avoid a repeat in the Paris highlight. But his handler reported: "We worked him today and he worked really well. We took him through the stalls yesterday and he jumped with nothing wrong at all. He is in good form and he is ready to run in the Arc."

The six-year-old Flat veteran Decorated Hero won the Group Three Supreme Stakes for the second year running at Goodwood yesterday. He is now likely to run next in Hong Kong.

The David Elsworth-trained Deadly Nightshade took the European Breeders Fund Farmers Day Novice Stakes to make it two wins from two career outings. Deadly Nightshade now heads to Ascot for the Group Three Cornwallis Stakes on 9 October.

The Cambridgeshire entry Mihnah made all the running for the EBF NFU Classified Stakes. The daughter of Lahib, who would carry 8st 3lb were she to run at Newmarket a week on Saturday, is a 33-1 chance with Coral.

Dominant Dancer could have booked a tilt at Redcar's £100,000 Comcast Teesside Two-Year-Old Trophy Stakes after opening her account in impressive fashion at Pontefract.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Padauk (Folkestone 3.30)
NB: The Thruster (Folkestone 4.00)

FIRST SHOW

HAYDOCK 3.20

	C	H	L	S	T
Slipper	11-2	11-2	9-2	11-2	6-1
Colway Ritz	13-2	6-1	13-2	13-2	11-2
Masamadas	13-2	13-2	7-1	13-2	7-1
Abi	7-1	8-1	6-1	8-1	7-1
Allgrit	15-2	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Fahs	8-1	7-1	8-1	7-1	7-1
Minivet	8-1	10-1	10-1	9-1	10-1
Motet	9-1	9-1	9-1	10-1	9-1
Silvertown	10-1	10-1	8-1	10-1	9-1
Rainbow Ways	8-1	8-1	11-1	9-1	8-1
Absolute Utopia	10-1	10-1	12-1	11-1	12-1

Each-way, a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3

C Cecil, H Wilson Hill, L Lackersteen, S Shanley, T Tate

Lewis aims for a quick getaway

BOXING

LENNOX LEWIS has no worries about defending his title against the Croatian Zeljko Mavrovic at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville on Saturday, and certaionly has not been impressed by the threatening noises emanating from his rivals trainer.

At 17st 4lb, the World Boxing Council champion is 13lb below his heaviest fighting weight, to take on Mavrovic. His trainer, Emanuel Steward, prepares Lewis for the style of the opponent. There is no rigid format to the champion's preparations.

"We are concentrating on balance, and catering for the speed of his opponent and being fluid in movement to make pivots and turns to keep the pressure on," Steward said. "Hopefully it will not go more than four of five rounds. This is the hardest Lennox has trained for a fight in a long time."

It will be Lewis's fourth defence in his second reign as the WBC champion, having beaten Akinwande, the Pole Andrew Golota and Shannon Briggs since he gained the title by reducing Oliver McCall to tears in February last year.

Lewis said: "I feel good, ready to go and get on the way. Some people are saying I'm quicker, but I'm always trying to improve on my speed. The quicker I can knock him out, the quicker I can get home."

Mavrovic had won all his 27 bouts, but his toughest test came from the British champion, Julius Francis, who does not rate remotely in world terms.

"I think they'd babied Mavrovic," said Lewis of the challenger who has a 33-1 record. He hasn't really been tested. He's got good basic boxing skills. But he hasn't been through the same kind of thresholds I've been through. This is a big fight for him."

Mavrovic's English trainer, Darkie Smith, has been making ominous noises, but Lewis just shrugs them off.

"That talk could prove detrimental. Talking to a guy makes him believe certain things all of sudden. Then he could be placed in a position in which he doesn't know how to react. He hasn't been through it," Lewis said.

Mike Tyson is being tested by a team of Massachusetts General Hospital doctors to determine if he is psychologically fit to return to the ring.

The former world heavyweight champion was in Boston on Wednesday to begin the psychological and neurological tests ordered by the state of Nevada's Athletic Commission, following a six-hour hearing last Saturday on Tyson's request for reinstatement of his boxing licence in the state. Tyson, who has been banned since July 1997 when he bit Evander Holyfield's ears during their title bout, has until Monday to submit the requested reports to the commission.

■ Naseem Hamed's 11th defence of his WBO featherweight title against Wayne McCullough has been confirmed for 31 October in Atlantic City.

John Renwick and Millbrook in perfect harmony during yesterday's Woodpecker Shavings Golden Jubilee Trophy *Peter Jay*

Virtual Village bounces back

EQUESTRIANISM

BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY
at Wembley Arena

JOHN WHITAKER and Virtual Village Welham, his Olympic mount, made a triumphant return to international show jumping when winning yesterday's Woodpecker Shavings Golden Jubilee Trophy on the second day of The Horse of the Year Show.

It was the 18-year-old's first serious contest since he pulled a tendon in his off foreleg in his last big competition (also a winning one) at Olympia last December. Though sound within a couple of weeks, there was swelling and heat in the leg to indicate that the injury would take time to heal.

Whitaker had not been intent on victory when he rode into the arena yesterday. "I suppose I got a bit carried away, but I didn't go crazy fast," he said. "It was really won by doing some nice turns." In this case "nice" meant shaving corners to the bone while maintaining a lovely rhythm on the horse with whom Whitaker has established such a wonderful rapport. In the process, he defeated Roelof Bril, the Dutchman who filled second and third places with Calero and Carpe Diem.

Whitaker will be taking Keeley Durham's Welham to the German Masters in Bremen next week, while the highly-strung Virtual Village Heyman (his mount for the World Equestrian Games) travels to Rome, where he will be hacked out by his groom.

The Whitaker family continued in fine form when John's younger brother, Michael, rode Twostep to win the Grandstand Media Cup, in which Bril was once again runner-up.

Twostep, whose career winnings of £600,000 include £110,000 for victory in the 1994 Calgary Grand Prix, was found to have back problems after his disappointing performances at the Atlanta Olympics. Twostep being of a nervous disposition, Whitaker says that he has never fully recovered.

Asha Narsapur made a round trip of nearly 18 hours south from Dundee to ride in one competition, the Junior Newcomers' Championship, which she won on a five-year-old pony mare, Edenside Sunshine. The rider will be 16 in October and out of pony classes by next year, so her partnership with the mare (who is "brilliant at everything") will soon be over.

Results, Digest, page 29

Bizarre send-off awaits Flo-Jo

ATHLETICS

FLORENCE GRIFFITH JOYNER will have a bizarre send-off – her fans will today pay their respects in a public viewing to be held in Los Angeles.

Griffith Joyner, a star of the 1988 Olympics, died in her sleep Monday at the age 38 of undetermined causes at her home in nearby Mission Viejo.

A public funeral is planned for tomorrow morning in the Lake Tahoe town of Lake Forest at Saddleback Valley Community Church, which can accommodate about 3,200 people.

The cause of Flo-Jo's death remained under investigation, coroner's officials said on Wednesday. The Olympic gold medallist and World record-holder for 100 and 200 metres, felt "a little tired" after appearing at a gymnastics meeting and visiting her mother in Santa Barbara on Sunday, said her former coach Bob Kersee, who added that there were "no signs whatsoever that Florence was ill". He said that she did suffer from exercise-induced asthma and migraine headaches.

Coroner's tests were continuing, and results might take weeks, according to Hector Rivera, the Orange County sheriff.

On Tuesday, hundreds of well-wishers and friends gathered in Los Angeles' Leimert Park, not far from where Griffith Joyner grew up, to say prayers, sing songs and remember her contributions to the community.

Arne Ljungqvist, a vice president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation and the organisation's top anti-doping official, said it would be unfair to speculate about Griffith Joyner and performance-enhancing drugs.

"It's very unfortunate for sport if one is accused of doping just for being an extremely good athlete," he said.

REDCAR

HYPERION

2.10 Eilean Shona 2.40 Mrs Malaprop 3.10 Won't Forget Me 3.40 Flow By 4.10 Skerray 4.40 Carabine 5.10 Oriel Star

GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in places: watered).
STALLS: Straight course – stands side; 1m 6f – centre; remainder – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5f to 1m.
■ Left-hand, tight course, with a one mile straight.
■ Course is off A1085 (signposted from A66). Redcar station (Darlington - Saltburn line) 300yds. **ADMISSION:** Club £12; Paddock £8 (OAPs £3.50); Course £2.50 (OAPs £1.25). **CAR PARK:** Free.
■ **LEADING TRAINERS:** Mrs M Reveley 35-306 (11.4%), J Gosden 20-61 (32.8%), M Johnston 18-141 (12.8%), J Dunlop 16-56 (28.6%).
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** J Weaver 23-134 (17.2%), G Carter 19-85 (22.4%), Dale Gibson 10-127 (7.9%), Kim Tinkler 5-126 (4%).
■ *FAVOURITES:* 221-628 (35.2%).
■ **LONG DISTANCE RUNNER:** Jaza (3.10) travels 321 miles.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Fonzy (visored, 3.10), Kissimmee Bay (5.10), Dynamic Dancer (5.10).

2.10 E.B.F. DOUBLE TRIGGER MAIDEN STAKES (D) £4,600 added 2YO 1m 1f

1 DOUBLE BAILEYS M Johnston 9 0 .... D Holland 3
2 04 GOLD LODGE (32) S C Williams 9 0 .... G Carter 5
3 DISCERNING AIR E Weymes 8 9 .... W Supple 2
4 0 EILEAN SHONA (28) J Fanshawe 8 9 .... R Cochrane 4
5 00 MISS ARCH (9) G Oldroyd 8 9 .... G Parkin 1
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Gold Lodge, 9-4 Double Baileys, Eilean Shona, 8-1 Discerning Air, 16-1 Miss Arch

FORM VERDICT

Reports suggest that Double Baileys has been slow to come to hand and a safer option is EILEAN SHONA, whose stable has made such excellent progress this year.

2.40 LEVY BOARD MICHAELMAS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 6f

1 000606 REDOUBTABLE (6) (D) D Chapman 7 9 10 R FitzPatrick (3) 15
2 002200 BENZOE (8) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 8 9 6 .... P Goode (5) 10
3 110160 DOMINELLE (14) (CD) T Easterby 6 9 6 .... R Winston 17
4 201620 MRS MALAPROP (8) (D) M Channon 3 9 5 .... P Cleary (7) 22
5 04000 BEE HEALTH BOY (34) (CD) M W Easterby 5 9 2 S Finnamore (7) 6 B
6 440004 JOHAYRO (8) (CD) J Goldie 5 9 1 .... R Fowley (7) 21
7 302065 MAITEAMIA (4) (D) S Bowring 5 9 0 .... C Teague 8 B
8 625103 WISHBONE ALLEY (28) M Dods 3 8 13 .... S Copp (3) 1
9 200410 TIME TO TANGO (4) (D) G M Moore 5 8 13 (7ex) A McCarthy 4
10 531444 DON PEPE (36) (D) D Nicholls 7 8 12 .... A Nicholls (5) 19
11 506600 PREMIUM PURSUIT (25) (D) R Fahey 3 8 12 P Hanagan (7) 2 B
12 051250 TANCRED TIMES (25) (D) D Barker 3 8 10 Jenny Benson (7) 18
13 003204 PETITE DANSEUSE (8) (D) D Chapman 4 8 1 Darren Moffatt 23
14 061200 SANS RIVALE (17) J L Eyre 3 8 1 .... G Hannon (7) 14
15 205005 MISTER WESTSOUND (17) (C) Miss L Perratt 6 7 11 J McAuley (5) 12 B
16 006000 JULMAT JOHN (13) (D) E Alston 6 7 11 .... J Fowle (5) 20
17 400550 BIFF-EM (18) (D) Miss L Perratt 4 7 10 .... Iona Wands (3) 11
18 000206 ZIBAK (11) (BF) J Goldie 4 7 10 .... P M Quinn (7) 16
19 00-000 SUEDORO (16) (D) J Goldie 8 7 10 .... L Newman (7) 9
20 000000 LINNETSONG (8) (C) D Chapman 3 7 10 .... P Bradley (5) 5 B
21 400500 GWESPYR (37) E Incisa 5 7 10 .... Kimberley Hart (3) 13
22 60-560 MU-ARRIK (236) (CD) G Oldroyd 10 7 10 .... C Cogan (5) 3 V
23 000000 RICH GLOW (28) N Bycroft 7 7 10 .... S Righton (5) 7
– 23 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Biff-Em 7st 9lb, Zibak 7st 7lb, Suedoro 7st 4lb, Linnetsong 7st 3lb, Gwespyr 6st 12lb, Mu-Arrik, Rich Glow 6st 8lb.

BETTING: 7-1 Johayro, 8-1 Benzoe, Mrs Malaprop, 10-1 Maiteamia, Time To Tango, Don Pepe, Petite Danseuse, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A competitive sprint in which the action could be concentrated on the stands' side with front-runners like JOHAYRO and Tancred Times drawn high. The former looks sure to make a bold bid to repeat last year's victory, having looked as though running into form again last week. Redoubtable and Dominelle also have solid claims.

3.10 TEESSIDE SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 added 1m 2f

1 000-04 DONNA'S DANCER (17) Mrs A Naughton 4 9 11 R FitzPatrick (5) 11
2 030100 BADRINATH (63) (D) H Collingridge 4 9 10 .... A Nicholls (5) 16
3 400550 POETTO (24) Mrs J Brown 3 9 8 .... R Winston (3) 13
4 000364 EXECUTIVE CHOICE (20) B Ellison 4 9 8 .... J McAuley (7) 17
5 300 THATOLDBLACKMAGIC (61) W Storey 3 9 7 .... G Carter 5
6 0000-0 FONZY (21) G Oldroyd 4 9 5 .... D Pears 15 V
7 003000 CEE-N-K (27) E Alston 4 9 5 .... W Supple 9
8 004000 WALTZ TIME (7) I Semple 4 9 5 .... N Kennedy 2
9 00-000 CHEROKEE CHARLIE (6) R Craggs 3 9 5 .... S Copp (5) 4
10 064520 WON'T FORGET ME (8) I Semple 3 9 4 .... R Lappin 1 V
11 642065 CRY FOR FREEDOM (76) J Pearce 3 9 4 .... J Weaver 7
12 0-0004 MARADI (J13) B Curley 4 9 2 .... J Fanning 10
13 000020 MRS MIDDLE (3) D Chapman 3 9 0 .... A Culhane 8
14 645502 DR WOODSTOCK (3) W Storey 4 8 13 .... G Parkin 12
15 00005 JESSIES JAMES (37) W Cunningham 3 8 11 .... R Cochrane 14
16 00-003 ANDITZ (20) J L Eyre 3 8 11 .... C Lowther 6
17 000-00 JAZA (J41) M Pipe 4 8 9 .... D Holland 3
– 17 declared –

BETTING: 5-1 Maradi, 6-1 Mrs Middle, Dr Woodstock, 10-1 Badrinath, Cee-N-K, Cry For Freedom, Jessies James, Anditz, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

If DR WOODSTOCK reproduces the form he showed against the relatively-unexposed Northern Accord at Beverley three days ago he will be hard to beat. Anditz and Cry For Freedom could give him most to do.

3.40 CONSTANT SECURITY RATED H'CAP (CLASS C) £7,750 added 1m 6f

1 3123 AGINOR (25) (BF) H Cecil 4 9 9 .... D Holland 7
2 221305 IVORY CROWN (34) (D) E Dunlop 3 8 13 .... M Hills 4
3 034504 ROYAL CASTLE (20) (CD) M Tregoning 4 8 10 .... R Cochrane 1
4 613141 FLOW BY (48) (D) J Dunlop 3 8 6 .... G Carter 6
5 2-1163 HULLBANK (31) (CD) J Jefferson 8 8 6 .... A Culhane 3
6 325006 WINSOME GEORGE (8) (C) C Fairhurst 3 8 1 .... N Kennedy 2 V
7 33-410 PARADISE SOUL (44) (D) C Brittain 3 7 13 .... M Henry 5
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Aginor, 7-2 Flow By, 11-2 Royal Castle, 6-1 Ivory Crown, 8-1 Hullbank, Paradise Soul, 12-1 Winsome George

FORM VERDICT

An interesting affair which should be truly-run with Aginor and Paradise Soul types who force the pace. This should suit *ROYAL CASTLE (nap), who developed into a fair staying* type last backend and shaped as though this step back up in distance was very much needed on his first run back in this country. Ivory Crown, possibly best forgiven a poor run last time, is back on a fair mark and may pose most problems.

4.10 W S ATKINS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,600 added 7f

1 6-0 CRACKER (9) A Senior 4 9 3 .... R Lappin 12
2 44 LITTLE CAESAR (207) S C Williams 4 9 3 .... F Lynch 13
3 350 BALLYKEEFE (83) T Etherington 3 9 0 .... D Pears 11
4 000050 DUDLEY ALLEN (11) T Clement 3 9 0 .... T G McLaughlin 14
5 0 ETISALAT (7) R Armstrong 3 9 0 .... R Hills 5
6 0-0000 GINNER MORRIS (112) C Booth 3 9 0 .... J Weaver 8
7 -00000 JUST NOBBY (62) E Incisa 3 9 0 .... Kim Tinkler 9
8 40-030 MUNASIB (9) S Kettlewell 3 9 0 .... R FitzPatrick (5) 1
9 5 COUNTRY ORCHID (J13) Mrs M Reveley 7 8 12 .... A Culhane 3
10 0-0004 MARTINE (11) A Bailey 4 8 12 .... N Kennedy 10
11 AOIFE G Wragg 3 8 9 .... M Hills 6
12 RISING CHORUS J Gosden 3 8 9 .... D Holland 4
13 00 SATWA BOULEVARD (7) M Channon 3 8 9 .... W Supple 7
14 30 SKERRAY (27) (BF) J Fanshawe 3 8 9 .... G Carter 2
– 14 declared –

BETTING: 9-1 Skerray, 7-2 Rising Chorus, 4-1 Aoife, 8-1 Country Orchid, 10-1 Martine, 16-1 Ballykeefe, 20-1 Little Caesar, Dudley Allen, Etisalat, Munasib, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT

With form of the standard normally required to win a race of this nature thin on the ground, the newcomers – both representing top stables – could dominate. Preference is for RISING CHORUS, who comes from a successful family.

4.40 COLD COTTAGE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,600 added 2YO fillies 6f

1 CABLE MEDIA GIRL S Kettlewell 8 11 .... R FitzPatrick (5) 9
2 0 CARABINE (9) Sir M Prescott 8 11 .... C Nutter 2
3 DESDEMONA G Wragg 8 11 .... M Hills 8
4 00 GOLDEN SKY (160) E Incisa 8 11 .... Kim Tinkler 10
5 6 LA CINECITTA (FR) (51) C Booth 8 11 .... J Weaver 3
6 PARISIENNE HILL R Fahey 8 11 .... R Winston (3) 7
7 RESALAH M Tregoning 8 11 .... R Hills 1
8 SALLYANDAR W Storey 8 11 .... G Parkin 6
9 TRULY BEWITCHED J Noseda 8 11 .... M Henry 4
10 42 TRUMP STREET (17) N Graham 8 11 .... R Cochrane 5
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Trump Street, 9-4 Desdemona, 5-1 Resalah, 8-1 Truly Bewitched, 16-1 Carabine, La Cinecitta, 20-1 Cable Media Girl, Parisienne Hill, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT

TRUMP STREET has a clear chance on the book but it will be interesting to see if there's any confidence in the betting behind Resalah or Truly Bewitched.

5.10 SEPTEMBER NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 2YO 5f

1 133342 CHARLIE GIRL (11) (D) J Berry 8 7 .... D Pears 10
2 312041 CONSULTANT (20) (D) N Littmoden 9 7 .... D Holland 12
3 304103 ORIEL STAR (6) (D) P Evans 9 4 .... C Cogan (7) 16 B
4 211300 LIGHTNING BLAZE (11) (D) J Pearce 9 3 .... J Weaver 11
5 004 CLAUDIUS (17) R Fahey 9 2 .... R Winston (3) 7
6 4030 PRINCIPAL DANCER (24) J Glover 9 2 .... S D Williams 1
7 0663 BODFARI KOMAITE (11) M W Easterby 9 0 .... G Parkin 4
8 005000 RICH DOMINION (11) J Bethell 9 0 .... C Lowther 2
9 04010 TRINA'S PET (11) (D) J Balding 8 13 .... J Edmunds 15
10 580400 PIGGY BANK (22) M W Easterby 8 13 .... T Lucas 14
11 660200 KISSIMMEE BAY (11) N Tinkler 8 9 .... Kim Tinkler 9 B
12 6050 CHOK-DI (11) Mrs M Reveley 8 8 .... A Culhane 17
13 056 TAZ MANIA (102) S Bowring 8 6 .... C Teague (3) 6
14 0550 CHILLIAN (24) M Brittain 8 5 .... G Carter 3
15 000 SOUNDS COOL (44) S Bowring 8 0 .... Dale Gibson 8
16 0040 NOW IS THE HOUR (26) P Felgate 7 13 .... A Nicholls (5) 18
17 420600 DYNAMIC DANCER (17) J J O'Neill 7 12 .... J McAuley (7) 13 B
18 663000 STARVINE (42) R Spicer 7 11 .... N Kennedy 19
19 000 JOHN'S BROTHER (46) J Goldie 7 10 .... A McCarthy (5) 5
– 19 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Consultant, 13-2 Charlie Girl, 7-1 Bodfari Komaite, 8-1 Oriel Star, 10-1 Claudius, Rich Dominion, Trina's Pet, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Low numbers seemed to have an advantage here when *Dominelle won a 26-runner sprint on fast ground last month.* BODFARI KOMAITE, who appeared to have improved for his break when third at Musselburgh last week, is a possible, along with Oriel Star, who ran well at Newbury on Saturday.

FOLKESTONE

HYPERION

2.00 Waterford Spirit 2.30 Ecudamah 3.00 Prince Consort 3.30 Padauk 4.00 The Thruster 4.30 Rising Spray 5.00 Vellum

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight course – stands side; round course – outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best 5f, 6f & 1m 2f.
■ Right-hand, undulating course with a run-in of one furlong.
■ Course is 6m W of town off A20. Westenhanger station (service from London, Charing Cross) adjoins course. **ADMISSION:** Club & Tattersalls £10; Picnic Park £4 per car plus £4 per occupant. Accompanied under-16s free. **CAR PARK:** Free.
■ **LEADING TRAINERS:** R Hannon 18-142 (12.7%), M Channon 12-93 (12.9%), J Pearce 11-73 (15.1%), G L Moore 11-101 (10.9%).
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** T Quinn 22-147 (15%), Paul Eddery 19-106 (17.9%), Dane O'Neill 18-121 (14.9%), S Sanders 17-141 (12.1%).
■ **FAVOURITES:** 191-554 (34.5%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Prince Consort (3.00), Komal (3.00), Melody Lady (3.00), Phuket Park (3.00), Hi-Jenny (3.00), Tikopia (4.30).

2.00 E.B.F. CHERITON PARK MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 5f

1 DON'T ASK D Murray Smith 9 0 .... J F Egan 11
2 GALI C Horgan 9 0 .... A McGlone 8
3 30 GOLD CRYSTAL (109) W Jarvis 9 0 .... P Robinson 6
4 36365 ONES ENOUGH (25) G L Moore 9 0 .... F Norton 9
5 5 WATERFORD SPIRIT (11) T D Barron 9 0 .... S Sanders 5
6 64 BONNIE DUNDEE (10) M Kettle 8 9 .... N Callan (5) 13
7 00065 CLARA BLUE (32) T D Mccarthy 8 9 .... N Pollard (5) 14
8 DOROTHY ALLEN M Channon 8 9 .... T Quinn 2
9 463 HARQUEBUSIER (32) J Pearce 8 9 .... G Bardwell 3
10 5 LOVELY ISLAND (17) R Johnson Houghton 8 9 .... R Price 12
11 0 MERE SLAD (17) A P Jones 8 9 .... S Drowne 4
12 0 MILNE'S DREAM (20) G Lewis 8 9 .... Paul Eddery 1
13 0655 MISPRINT (26) E Wheeler 8 9 .... S Carson (7) 15
14 5534 PRINCESS FOLEY (23) W G M Turner 8 9 .... D McGaffin (7) 10
15 RIVERBIRD D Chappell 8 9 .... Martin Dwyer 7
– 15 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Dorothy Allen, 5-1 Waterford Spirit, 6-1 Gold Crystal, 7-1 Ones Enough, Princess Foley, 8-1 Bonnie Dundee, 12-1 Riverbird, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

With high numbers generally favoured on the straight course this season, long traveller WATERFORD SPIRIT may not be ideally positioned in stall five, but he showed sufficient speed *and promise on his Nottingham debut to suggest he will be* hard to beat.

2.30 HURST GREEN NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,600 added 2YO 5f

1 1201 GREY PRINCESS (23) (D) P Harris 9 7 .... N Pollard (5) 4
2 4150 GIFFOINE (16) (CD) S Dow 9 6 .... S Sanders 1
3 006230 PRICE OF PASSION (16) D Arbuthnot 9 1 .... T Quinn 9
4 60330 AUBRIETA (USA) (16) C Brittain 9 0 .... P Robinson 5
5 052530 ECUDAMAH (21) R Phillips 8 12 .... S Drowne 2
6 46324 LEGAL VENTURE (25) (D) B Meehan 8 4 .... C Rutter 3
7 00605 MERANIE GIRL (18) J Arnold 8 0 .... Martin Dwyer 8
8 2532 NICHOLAS MISTRESS (23) P Evans 7 10 .... F Norton 6
9 000 LATCH LIFTER (30) G Lewis 7 10 .... G Bardwell 7
– 9 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Latch Lifter 7st 8lb.

BETTING: 7-2 Grey Princess, 4-1 Aubrieta, 5-1 Nicholas Mistress, 6-1 Ecudamah, 8-1 Giffoine, Legal Venture, 10-1 Price of Passion, Meranie Girl, 14-1 Latch Lifter

FORM VERDICT

This could be run at a furious gallop. Legal Venture likes to jump out in front, but will be pressed for the lead by Grey Princess, Latch Lifter and Price of Passion, who all like to be up there early. This would play into the hands of GIFFOINE, who ran on strongly to win a similarly run race here last month.

3.00 EAST WEAR BAY CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2YO 6f

1 5350 MR SOLITAIRE (16) P Cole 8 2 .... T Quinn 1
2 GROUTY J Fanshawe 9 0 .... A Clark 3
3 24500 PRINCE CONSORT (11) (BF) Mrs J Ramsden 9 0 S Sanders 2 B
4 000505 KOMAL (36) M Quinn 8 12 .... A Whelan 6 B
5 005 MELODY LADY (27) Mrs L Stubbs 8 7 .... J F Egan 13 B
6 600 PIETRA (46) P Howling 8 7 .... F Norton 12
7 UNCLE DUNCAN J S Moore 8 6 .... P P Murphy (3) 7
8 00 ATOMIK (11) Dr J Scargill 8 3 .... G Bardwell 9
9 6505 CANYOUHEARME (17) N Callaghan 8 3 .... P Doe (5) 5
10 0 HELEN'S STARDUST (16) W Muir 8 3 .... Martin Dwyer 10
11 024443 PATSYS FOREM (27) (BF) M Blanshard 8 3 .... C Rutter 15
12 000 TOP OF THE MORNING (14) J Pearce 8 3 .... A Polli (5) 6
13 445 PHUKET PARK (6) Sir M Prescott 7 13 .... J Lowe 11 B
14 060 HAVERI (26) J S Moore 7 11 .... M Baird (3) 4
15 63605 HI-JENNY (23) W G M Turner 7 11 .... P Fitzsimons (7) 14 B
16 6000 NICE SPICE (51) G L Moore 7 11 .... R Brisland (7) 16
– 16 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Prince Consort, 9-2 Mr Solitaire, 7-1 Melody Lady, Patsys Forem, 10-1 Grouty, Komal, Phuket Park, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

The fact that five of the 16 runners here are blinkered for the first-time is a good indication to quality. Most of the leading contenders are drawn low, which further muddles the waters, and preference for PRINCE CONSORT is reluctant, though he has clearly shown enough for a race of this nature.

3.30 EASTWELL MANOR HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 1m 7f 92yds

1 04000 PARADISE NAVY (7) (CD) C Egerton 9 10 0 .... S Sanders 3 B
2 5/006- BELMARITA (J118) G Hubbard 5 9 5 .... N Callan (5) 4
3 425223 MANNEQUIN (51) (BF) B Hills 3 9 4 .... T Quinn 1
4 6-4200 BE TRUE (23) G L Moore 4 9 3 .... Candy Morris 5
5 202505 PADAUK (9) M Haynes 4 8 13 .... S Drowne 6
6 055031 SHINING DANCER (8) S Dow 6 8 12 (6ex) .... C Rutter 10
7 320000 FLYING COLOURS (8) C Benstead 4 8 7 .... A Clark 8
8 312010 PHILOSOPHIC (11) (D) Mrs L Jewell 4 8 5 .... J F Egan 9
9 060200 FOURDANED (63) T D Mccarthy 5 8 4 .... N Pollard (5) 2
10 0-0000 NORTH OF KALA (105) G L Moore 5 7 10 .... P Doe (5) 7
– 10 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: North Of Kala 7st 3lb.

BETTING: 7-2 Mannequin, 4-1 Shining Dancer, 5-1 Padauk, 13-2 Philosophic, 7-1 Paradise Navy, 8-1 Be True, Fourdaned, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Shining Dancer looks to have solid claims but PADAUK, possibly ridden too forcefully when fifth at Sandown, gets a handy 9lb pull and may be seen to better effect if ridden more conservatively today. Mannequin and Paradise Navy look best of the others.

4.00 LEVY BOARD APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 7f

1 20-060 HEVER GOLF MOVER (50) T J Naughton 4 9 10 N Callan (3) 11
2 31-000 GRACE BROWNING (22) H Candy 3 9 10 .... Nicola Wright (5) 6
3 02-021 THE THRUSTER (31) M Tregoning 3 9 9 .... R Smith (3) 1 V
4 104400 MOROCCO (9) (D) M Channon 9 9 7 .... A Eddery (3) 13
5 325610 RAINBOW RAIN (USA) (21) (D) S Dow 4 9 7 .... P Doe 16
6 560231 PEACEFUL SARAH (25) (D) R Ingram 3 9 6 .... N Pollard 8
7 508140 WHATEVER'S RIGHT (98) (D) M Usher 9 9 5 W Hutchinson (5) 14
8 530001 SPEEDY CLASSIC (USA) (43) (D) M Heaton-Ellis 9 9 5 A Daly 3
9 003264 SHARP IMP (42) (C) (D) R Flower 8 9 1 .... D Griffiths 2 B
10 206300 ULTRA BEET (98) R Flower 5 9 1 .... P Fredericks (5) 9
11 050000 THE MAGISTRATE (10) M Blanshard 3 9 1 .... P P Murphy 7
12 425320 MATOAKA (4) V Soane 4 9 1 .... K Hopkins (5) 5
13 120550 QUESTAN (93) B Smart 6 9 0 .... R Studholme (3) 15
14 053511 MUTABASSIR (21) (D) G L Moore 4 8 12 .... R Brisland (5) 10
15 000000 DESERT LYNX (31) T Watson 5 8 11 .... Joanna Badger (7) 12
16 036005 DENBRAE (15) (D) D Murray Smith 6 8 10 .... G Faulkner 4
– 16 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 The Thruster, 6-1 Mutabassir, 7-1 Speedy Classic, 8-1 Peaceful Sarah, Sharp Imp, 10-1 Morocco, 14-1 Rainbow Rain, Whatever's Right, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

The Thruster and Mutabassir both have quietly progressive profiles, but WHATEVER'S RIGHT (nap), successful for *today's rider at Salisbury, is worth a small interest.*

4.30 T.M.P. AIR CONDITIONING CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS E) £3,750 added 1m 4f

1 621304 DURHAM (9) G L Moore 7 9 5 .... S Sanders 8 B
2 -45630 RISING SPRAY (9) (CD) C Horgan 7 9 3 .... Paul Eddery 7
3 0/5635 RUTH'S GAMBLE (J144) Mrs L Jewell 10 9 3 .... J F Egan 2 V
4 -30600 TIKOPIA (6) (D) Mrs A Perrett 4 9 3 .... T Quinn 1 B
5 333200 HAPPY GO LUCKY (16) M J Weeden 4 9 0 .... S Drowne 4
6 60-5 MUTAFARIJ (USA) (13) E Dunlop 3 8 9 .... P Robinson 5
7 0-35 NUVELLINO (18) B R Millman 3 8 6 .... A Whelan 6
8 5230 REGAL BRIDGET (36) D Elsworth 3 8 6 .... N Pollard (5) 3
– 8 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Durham, 4-1 Happy Go Lucky, 9-2 Regal Bridget, 5-1 Rising Spray, 6-1 Mutafarij, 8-1 Nuvellino, 10-1 Tikopia, 14-1 Ruth's Gamble

FORM VERDICT

Not a lot between most of these on official ratings. RISING SPRAY's overall strike rate is modest, but he excels himself here, and that factor gives him the edge over Durham and Tikopia.

5.00 SEDLESCOMBE MAIDEN STAKES (D) £5,000 fillies & mares 1m 1f 149yds

1 0/23-0 MAROZIA (USA) (20) J Gosden 4 9 2 .... A Garth 5
2 56 OVER KEEN (53) Miss G Kelleway 4 9 2 .... J F Egan 2
3 WINGED GREYBIRD Miss A M Newton-Smith 4 9 2 .... J Lowe 6
4 00 MISS RIVIERA STAR (17) G Wragg 3 8 10 .... S Sanders 7
5 5 PERLA DI SASSO (GER) (21) C Brittain 3 8 10 .... P Robinson 8
6 6060 ROYAL SIGNET (15) M J Weeden 3 8 10 .... S Drowne 9
7 035362 SEATTLE RIBBON (USA) (31) D Elsworth 3 8 10 .... T Quinn 4
8 000 SILVER WEDDING (13) Lady Herries 3 8 10 .... A Clark 1
9 3 VELLUM (46) H Cecil 3 8 10 .... A McGlone 3
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 4-6 Vellum, 7-2 Seattle Ribbon, 7-1 Marozia, 12-1 Perla di Sasso, 16-1 Over Keen, 20-1 Miss Riviera Star, Royal Signet, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Vellum is open to improvement, but her breeding and style of racing on her belated debut suggests this longer trip will test her stamina to the full. The well-bred PERLA DI SASSO probably did not do herself justice on her Epsom debut and is given another chance in what looks a weekish maiden.

RACING RESULTS

GOODWOOD

Good to Firm

2.00: (2m handicap)
1. DANEGOLD .... Derek Byrne 5-1
2. Pertemps Mission .... J Culloty 25-1
3. Herbshan Dancer .... C Maude 20-1
4. Spick And Span .... M Richards 8-1

Also: 5-2 fav Fast Forward Fred, 5-1 Mighty Magic, 12-1 Malayan Moon, Sovereign Crest, Wild Colonial Boy (5th), 14-1 Sound Appeal (6th). 16-1 Limelight, 20-1 Hurgill Dancer, 33-1 Sand Cay, 50-1 Moonlight Invader, Yak Alfara, 66-1 Regal Splendour.

16 ran. 6, 1¼, nk, 1¼, nk. (*Winner bay gelding by Danehill out of Cistus,* trained by M Channon at Upper Lambourn for Circular Distributors Ltd). Tote: £4.90; £1.20, £4.70, £3.80, £2.60. DF: £100.40. CSF: £125.38. Tricast: £2,163.56.

2.30: (7f 3yo handicap)
1. BAY OF DELIGHT .... J Quinn 12-1
2. Great News .... S Whitworth 10-1
3. Morgan Le Fay .... Pat Eddery 14-1
4. Carinthia .... R Hills 12-1

Also: 13-2 jt fav Be My Wish (5th), 13-2 jt fav Diamond Drill (6th), 10-1 Carbon, 12-1 Katyushka, My Bold Boyo, 14-1 Caversfield, Loch Laird, 16-1 Desert Mirage, 20-1 Balanita, La Petite Flameche, Shamwari Song, 25-1 *Night Spirit, Rosin Splendour, 33-1 Fast Franc.*

18 ran. 2, 1¾, hd, ¾, ¼. (*Winner chestnut filly by Cadeaux Genereux out of Zawashy,* trained by E Dunlop at Newmarket for Gainsborough Stud). Tote: £16.70; £3.20, £2.20, £3.30, £3.10. DF: £78.40. CSF: £106.19. Tricast: £1,617.16. NR: Palmetto Bay, Young-Un.

3.00: (1m classified stakes)
1. MIHNAH .... R Hills 13-8 fav
2. No Extras .... *R Brisland 9-1*
3. Amber Fort .... N Pollard 7-1

Also: 7-2 Little Indian (6th), 11-2 Cornflower Fields (5th), 10-1 King of Tunes (4th).

6 ran. 1¼, ½, 2, 3, 7. (*Winner bay filly by Lahib out of Nafhaat, trained by M Tregoning at* Lambourn for Hamdan Al Maktoum). Tote: £2.10; £1.70, £2.30. DF: £9.30. CSF: £13.81.

3.30: (7f Group 3 stakes)
1. DECORATED HERO L Dettori 2-1 jt fav
2. Beraysim .... P Robinson 9-2
3. Bold Fact .... K Fallon 2-1 jt fav

Also: 9-1 Nanoushka, 12-1 Kumait (4th), 20-1 Headhunter (6th). 50-1 Brief Escapade (5th). Wigging.

8 ran. ½, 1, 2½, 2½, 1 (Winner bay gelding by Warning out of Bequeath, trained by J Gosden at Newmarket for Exors of the late Mr Herbert Allen). Tote: £2.80; £1.30, £1.60, £1.20. DF: £8.60. CSF: £9.75.

4.00: (6f 2yo novice stakes)
1. DEADLY NIGHTSHADE .... K Fallon 11-10 fav
2. Mujadene .... Pat Eddery 7-2
3. Elmhurst Boy .... J Reid 50-1

Also: 13-8 Royal Origine (4th).

4 ran. 1½, 4, 5. (*Winner bay filly by Night Shift out of Dead Certain,* trained by D Elsworth at Whitcombe for M Tabor). Tote: £1.70. DF: £2.40. CSF: £4.90.

4.35: (1m 2yo nursery handicap)
1. HOH NO .... R Mullen 9-2 fav
2. Miss Rimex .... N Pollard 10-1
3. Patron Saint .... R Hughes 11-2

Also: 5-1 Enfilade, Whistling Dixie, 8-1 Mice Ideas (5th), 10-1 Morvino (6th), 14-1 Greyfield (4th), 20-1 Malchik, 25-1 Nutchat, 33-1 Strip Search.

11 ran. 2, 1¾, 5, sht-hd, 3. (*Winner bay colt by Efisio out of Primetta,* trained by M Bell *at Newmarket for D Allport & R B Michaelson*). Tote: £5.10; £2.20, £2.50, £1.70. DF: £18.10. CSF: £44.14. Tricast: £235.81.

5.05: (1m2f 3yo maiden stakes)
1. NASAAYEM .... L Dettori 3-1
2. Mole Creek .... R Cochrane 6-4 fav
3. Miss Fara .... T Quinn 8-1

Also: 4-1 Dream Pursuit (6th), 14-1 Louis Philippe (4th), Silver Sun (5th).

6 ran. 1, 2½, 1½, sht-hd, 4. (*Winner bay filly by Gulch out of Saffaanh,* trained by Saeed bin Suroor at Newmarket for Godolphin). Tote: £2.70; £1.60, £1.50. DF: £2.30. CSF: £6.82. NR: Daunting.

Jackpot: £11,121.90 (part won; pool of *£783.24 carried forward to Haydock today*).

Placepot: £234.50. Quadpot: £9.20.

Place 6: £119.18. Place 5: £24.60.

PONTEFRACT

Good to Firm

2.45: 1. DOMINANT DANCER (M Hills) 8-11 fav; **2. Tomaseen** 11-2; **3. America** 8-1. 13 ran. 1½, 1½. (J Hills, Lambourn). Tote: £1.80; £1.40, £1.70, £2.00. DF: £5.80 CSF: £4.78.

3.20: 1. SUNSET LADY (Dale Gibson) 9-1; **2. May I Say** 6-1; **3.** *In Time* 9-2. 7 ran. 11-10 fav Stolen Tear. Sht-hd, 2½. (P Haslam, Middleham). Tote: £12.00; £3.60, £3.00. DF: £44.80. CSF: £54.83. Tricast: £251.23. NR: Thorntoun Gold.

3.50: 1. VOLA VIA (K Darley) 16-1; **2. Free Option** 11-4 fav; **3. Double Edged** 9-2. 11 ran. 1½, sht-hd. (I Balding, Kingsclere). Tote: £14.80; £2.60, £2.30, £2.00. DF: £37.60. CSF: £57.22. Tricast: £223.56. Tote Trifecta: £200.70.

4.20: 1. ZINDABAD (A McGlone) 4-1; **2. Fort Sumter** 11-8 fav; **3. Mynah Bird** 8-1. 9 ran. 7, 3½. (B Hanbury, Newmarket). Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £1.10, £1.90. DF: £2.90. CSF: £9.31.

4.55: 1. SOAKED (A Culhane) 20-1; **2. Bilko** 100-30 fav; **3. William's Well** 9-1; **4. Jackerin** 10-1. 18 ran. 1½, 1. (D Chapman, York). Tote: £23.40: £3.70, £1.80, £2.70, £2.20. DF: £52.00. CSF: £82.61. Tricast: £631.93.

5.25: 1. MY LEARNED FRIEND (N Callan) 7-2; **2.** *Burning Truth* 14-1, **3. Boulevard Rouge** 9-2. 9 ran. 5-2 fav Desert Sand. 2½, sht-hd. (S Woods, Newmarket). Tote: £4.60; £1.90, £3.90, £1.90. DF: £26.80. CSF: £50.77.

Placepot: £147.20. **Quadpot:** £8.30.

Place 6: £119.22. **Place 5:** £95.32.

PERTH

Good (Good to Firm in places)

2.10: 1. THORNTOUN HOUSE (A Dobbin) 14-1; **2. Global Legend** 7-2; **3. Ayeknowso** 50-1. 8 ran. 2-1 fav Valhalla. 2½, 6. (J Goldie). Tote: £14.00; £2.50, £1.80, £9.00. DF: *£25.60. CSF: £53.15. NR: Radical Reform.*

2.40: 1. FOX'S LIBEL (R Garritty) 8-1; **2. Forty Love** 13-2; **3. Tie Break** 9-2. 10 ran. 13-8 fav Up The Clerets. 5, 13. (J FitzGerald). Tote: £11.50; £2.70, £2.30, £1.80. DF: £30.40. CSF: £53.11. NR: Ludere.

3.10: 1. TOM BRODIE (A P McCoy) 5-4; **2. Battery Fired** 5-1; **3. Vintage Taittinger** evens fav. 3 ran. 8, 16. (J Howard Johnson). Tote: £2.00. DF: £3.30. CSF: £5.56. NR: Any Port.

3.40: 1. TSANGA (N Bentley) 11-2; **2. Valiant Dash** 5-1; **3. Cottstown Boy** 4-1. 7 ran. 7-2 fav Blooming Spring. 1, 7. (G Moore). Tote: £6.30; £3.00, £2.00. DF: £16.00. CSF: £28.59. Tricast: £109.26. NR: Head Chaplain.

4.10: 1. INDIANA PRINCESS (P Niven) 4-1; **2. Kilbue King** 5-1; **3. Kierchem** 4-1. 6 ran. 11-4 fav King of Theves. 2½, hd. (Mrs M Reveley). Tote: £4.80; £1.70, £1.60, £1.70. DF: £20.60. CSF: £21.16. Tricast: £75.40.

4.40: 1. DAMZA (Richard Guest) 9-2; **2. Madge McSplash** 9-4; **3. Pepper Pot Boy** 11-2. 6 ran. 6-4 fav Endowment. 3, 6. (N Mason). Tote: £6.10; £2.40, £2.10. DF: £6.50. CSF: £13.14.

5.10: 1. GRIMALDI LAD (Mr C Bonner) 5-1; **2. New Dawn** 5-1; **3. Willa Thyne** 16-1. 8 ran. 7-4 fav Gunner Marc (4th). ¾, 3½. (M Hammond). Tote: £6.80; £2.10, £1.50, £4.20. DF: £12.10. CSF: £27.97.

Placepot: £674.00. **Quadpot:** £40.00.

Place 6: £443.46. **Place 5:** £129.56.

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 25 September 1998

Norwegians focus on Maine Road

BY ALAN NIXON

THE NORWEGIANS Kjell Inge Rokke and Bjorn Rune Gjeltsen are looking to buy Manchester City and may drop their interest in Wimbledon.

The two multi-millionaire businessmen, who made their money out of fish and then oil, are keen to buy into the Maine Road club. Rokke and Gjeltsen own the Norwegian side Molde and already have an arrangement with Wimbledon's majority stakeholder, Sam Hammam.

However, they are not yet investing in the South London club as they believed Wimbledon were going to move to Dublin and become a leading power. Now they could opt to go elsewhere themselves.

The pair, worth an estimated £400m, are looking closely at City, a club they tried to buy during Francis Lee's trouble reign. Rokke and Gjeltsen used the former City player Age Hareide as a go-between in talks with Lee a year ago to set-up a financial injection.

Hareide was then the coach of Molde and would have been installed as first-team coach at City. There would also have been a transfer agreement between the clubs.

The deal was called off because Lee was unwilling to show the Norwegians the club's books and they turned their sights to Wimbledon instead. Now the Dons' plan to move to Dublin is on hold and the Norwegians could pull out and put their money into City instead.

City yesterday announced a pre-tax loss of £6.3m for the year to 31 May. The accounts also show a loss on transfers of almost £2m and a wage bill on players and staff of £8.7m, up by £1.5m on the previous year.

Since May the overall playing staff has been cut from 52 to 37, and the club's payroll list from 160 to 141. In his report, the chairman, David Bernstein, said: "Turnover is up 20 per cent to £15.3m, which is healthy. But we have an unacceptable level of expenses arising largely from the size of the playing staff and resultant wages."

However, a financial boost for the transfer budget and the prospect of moving to a new ground makes the club the type that could be floated in the near future and that also appeals to the Norwegians.

Joe Royle, the City manager, is trying to bring Mike Sheron back to Maine Road and end his miserable time at Queen's Park Rangers. Royle wants Sheron on loan for his Second Division side and the striker would be keen to rejoin his first club. Sheron has had a fall-out with Rangers' player-coach, Vinnie Jones, and sees little future at the Loftus Road club, who would also like him off their wage bill.

Chris Sutton will have X-rays today amid fears that an ankle problem could put him out of the Blackburn Rovers team for the next few weeks.

Sutton has been struggling with the injury, needing regular treatment that has kept him out of training and forced him to have the problem analysed.

The Rovers manager, Roy Hodgson, will be anxious that Sutton be proved fit as his forward line is already weakened ahead of the Premiership match with Everton tomorrow.

Sutton may even be forced to play if the X-rays do not show any bone or ligament damage because Kevin Davies is sidelined after tonsilitis. Kevin Gallacher is recovering from a calf injury, leaving Martin Dahlin as the only fit striker at the club as difficulties mount for Hodgson.

The Wolves midfielder Steve Froggatt looks set to join Coventry City for £2m. The Highfield Road club had a £1.5m bid for the former England Under-21 international turned down earlier this month and Middlesbrough have since joined the bidding.

The Dutch goalkeeper John Achterberg is set to make his debut in goal for Tranmere Rovers at home to Swindon tonight, after arriving from FC Eindhoven on a free transfer. He will replace Steve Simonsen, who has joined Everton. Danny Coyne, the other recognised Rovers keeper, is absent through injury. Mike Walsh, the former Bury manager, will take caretaker charge of Swindon.

End of Cup Final replay

BY CHRIS MAUME

IT MAY be against 127 years of tradition, but the chairman of the Football Supporters' Association agrees with the decision to dispense with an FA Cup final replay from this season onwards.

While ruling out any immediate prospect of other rounds having to be decided in the first match, the Football Association have decided that the final will go to extra time and penalties if necessary.

The FA want to ease fixture congestion at the end of the season as an FA Cup final replay could clash with the Champions' Cup Final, with Arsenal or Manchester United potentially involved in both games. They also believe that supporters prefer to see a match decided on the day, especially with the travelling and ticketing costs involved.

In 117 previous finals, a replay has been needed on 14 occasions, the most recent having been in 1993 when Arsenal beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 after a 1-1 draw.

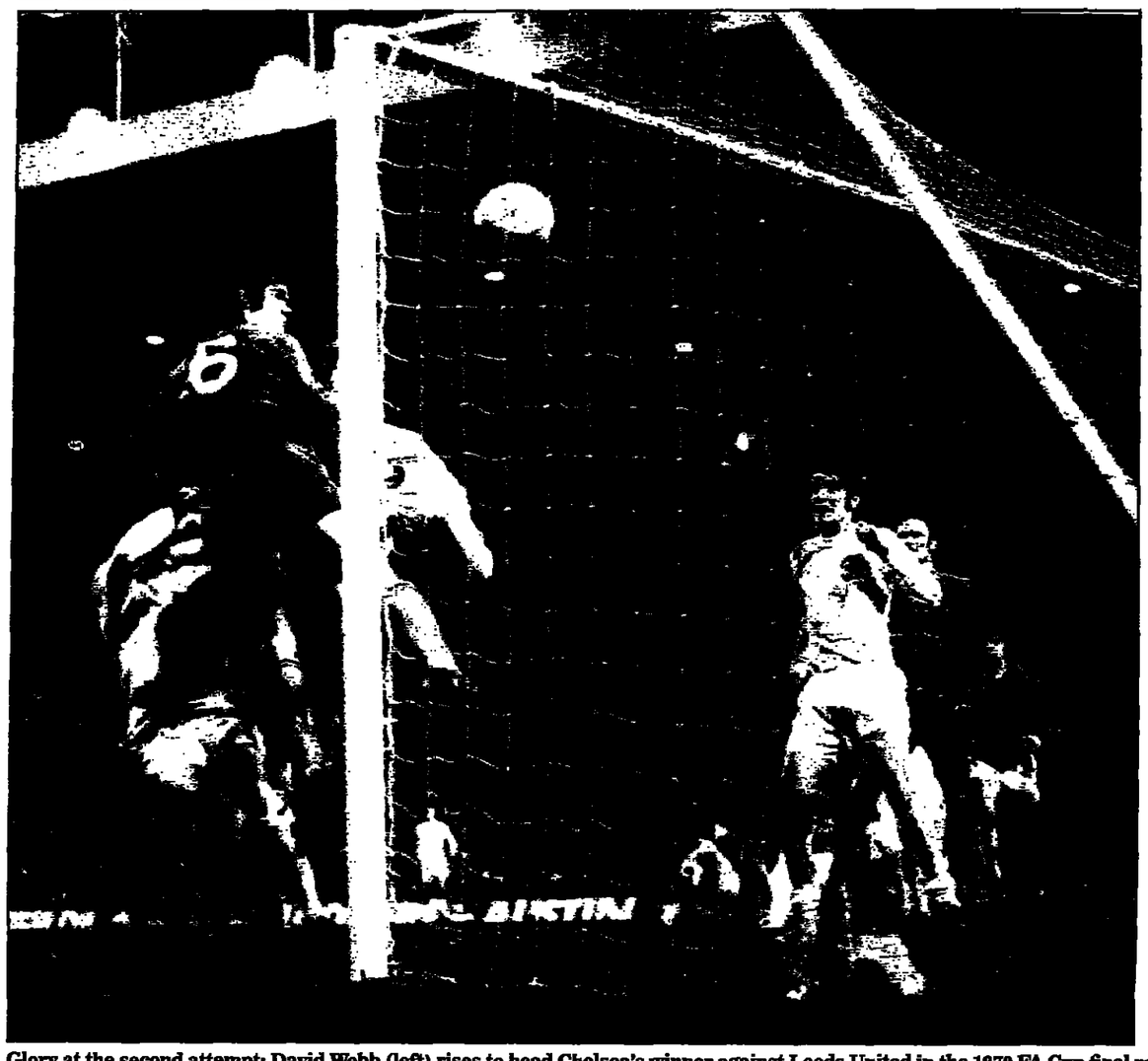
All other domestic, European and international finals, even the World Cup Final, have no provision for a replay.

The FA's spokesman, Steve Double, said: "It has become clear over recent years that fans going to Wembley would prefer to have a decision, for better or worse, on the day. There is also the issue of fixture congestion."

In February last season United were still involved in both the FA Cup and Champions' Cup, with any FA Cup Final replay scheduled to take place the day after the final of the European competition.

Graham Bean, chairman of the Football Supporters' Association, said: "I welcome this move as it seems that common sense has prevailed."

ACTION REPLAYS: THE POST-WAR FA CUP FINALS THAT NEEDED A SECOND MATCH



Glory at the second attempt: David Webb (left) rises to head Chelsea's winner against Leeds United in the 1970 FA Cup final replay; Ricky Villa (top right) scores one of the most memorable goals in Wembley history in Tottenham's victory over Manchester City in 1981; Ian Wright (bottom right) puts Arsenal on the way to victory over Sheffield Wednesday in 1993 *Daily Mirror/Allsport*

1970

Chelsea 2 Leeds 1 (aet)

After ploughing up Wembley, the two sides regrouped at Old Trafford. The first match was an exercise in tedium, the replay one of the most exciting finals ever. "Here in one match were the extremes of exaltation and despair which are suffered each season," wrote Ken Jones in the *Daily Mirror*. Mick Jones' goal was cancelled out by Peter Osgood's header, setting the scene for David Webb's climactic injury-time winner off his knee.

1981

Tottenham 3 Manchester City 2

Ricky Villa ended the first game in tears after being substituted: "It was the worst moment of my life." Five days later came what was surely the best. The Argentinian had put Spurs ahead in a pulsating match before Steve Mackenzie equalised with one of the best goals seen at Wembley. It was eclipsed, though, when, with the score at 2-2, Villa picked up the ball and went past defender after defender before sliding the ball into the net.

1982

Tottenham 1 QPR 0

The 1-1 draw in the first game was one of the most uneventful finals in memory. QPR, then in the old Second Division, won neutrals' hearts in the more absorbing replay as they chased the game after going behind to Glenn Hoddle's sixth-minute penalty. They had two unsuccessful penalty appeals, while Hoddle cleared one shot off the line and John Gregory, now the Aston Villa manager, clipped the top of the bar.

1983

Manchester Utd 4 Brighton 0

You won't find a Brighton fan to argue with the end of Cup final replays. In the first game they stretched United to the limit, and but for Gordon Smith's notorious miss near the end, would not have suffered the humiliation the following Thursday. Two goals from Bryan Robson and one each from Norman Whiteside and Arnold Muhren did the damage. To add to the pain they were relegated and have been heading in the same direction ever since.

1990

Manchester Utd 1 Crystal Palace 0

The theory that Cup final replays improve on the first game came a cropper this time round. The 3-3 draw the previous Saturday had everything; the replay, in which Palace all but kicked United off the park, was a dreadful spectacle. At least the winning goal was a decent effort, from defender Lee Martin, who now plays for Glossop North End in the North-Western Trains League. United had won, and Alex Ferguson's job was safe.

1993

Arsenal 2 Sheffield Wed 1 (aet)

For the first time, the Cup final was nearly decided by penalties, but Andy Linighan saved the day. The *Independent* dubbed the first game "the Mogadon final", but the replay, on a wintry evening, was a magnificent affair settled in the dying moments of extra time by a towering header from Linighan. "A real slow burner improved the longer it went on," said the *Independent*, "and by the end it was compelling edge-of-the-seat stuff."

Graham's move imminent

BY NICK HARRIS

GEORGE GRAHAM'S appointment as the new manager of Tottenham is likely to be confirmed within the next three days, although no announcement will be made until Alan Sugar, the Spurs chairman, returns from a secretive business trip to Los Angeles. There has been speculation Sugar will have meetings in the United States today with a potential buyer for the club – possibly a multi-national media company – but a spokesman for Sugar said the nature of the trip was so clandestine he could not confirm any details.

Two weeks ago, Sugar turned down a bid of £85m for Tottenham from ENIC – a company which specialises in football club investments – because he values the club at closer to £200m. Whether his meetings today will see Spurs in the hands of new owners, or whether they are merely speculative forays, there is little doubt Graham is close to being brought in to replace Christian Gross, sacked three weeks ago.

David Pleat, the acting Tottenham manager, confirmed on Wednesday that an approach had been made to lure Graham from his job at Leeds. "Mr. Sugar has made an approach to Leeds for Mr. Graham," Pleat said. "The chairman is in dialogue with the Leeds chairman. Having made the approach, we hope it will come to fruition."

Leeds issued a statement yesterday confirming a move for Graham was being discussed. "It is true discussions have been going on between the clubs," the statement said. "There is no truth in reports he has already agreed to take charge," it added, although Graham's move seems increasingly certain.

Sugar and Peter Ridsdale, the Leeds chairman, had planned to meet – possibly to cement the terms of Graham's move – before their sides play each other in the Premiership tomorrow. Whether that meeting will take place depends on whether Sugar is back from the United States in time. He flew to Los Angeles yesterday, has meetings today, and could still be back in time for the game. If he cannot be back in London fast enough, the deal could be finalised on Sunday, and Graham could be in charge early next week. "Nothing will happen while [Sugar] is away," said Sugar's spokesman.

Graham said yesterday he will definitely still be the Leeds manager for the next two days. "I will be taking charge of training again today and I will be in charge of Leeds on Saturday against Spurs," he said. "It's a match I'm looking forward to."

Whether that is because it will be his last before moving south remains to be seen, but it seems the only question is when precisely Graham will move, not if. He may choose Leeds' Uefa Cup first-round, second-leg tie against Maritimo on Tuesday as his final match in charge.

While speculation over Graham's future continued, Spurs' supporters were voicing concerns the move could be costly for the club. Mark Jacob, spokesman for the Tottenham Action Group, said: "Presumably, George Graham's compensation package [over £1m will go to Leeds if the deal goes through] and Christian Gross' golden handshake will be part of the accounts and will show that the shareholders have been hit in the pocket."

If Tottenham secure Graham's services, the repercussions are likely to spread beyond White Hart Lane and Elland Road. Leeds were warned yesterday not to attempt to poach Gordon Strachan from Coventry if Graham does move to north London. Strachan helped Leeds to the Championship in 1992 and is still popular at the club. However, the Coventry chairman, Bryan Richardson, said: "We have had no approach, Gordon has a five-year contract here and I honestly do not think it is an issue. Unless there is a fall out between Gordon and ourselves there is no reason for him to leave."

Meanwhile yesterday, the Aston Villa manager, John Gregory, has said he will not stand by Mark Bosnich if the Australian admits to having used abusive language towards Everton supporters. Bosnich is alleged to have sworn at Everton supporters at the end of the goalless draw on August 16. "If that's the case there is no way I can support Mark," Gregory said.

The Football Association said yesterday that Villa's chairman, Doug Ellis, was "perfectly entitled" to publish *Deadly!*, his new autobiography, despite the recent furore over Glenn Hoddle's World Cup diary. An FA spokesman said: "He is a senior figure in football and we are not in the business of censorship." Ellis's conduct as a football club chairman comes within the FA's jurisdiction.

McDermott hired for Woking rescue job

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

BY RUPERT METCALF

BRIAN McDERMOTT, the former Slough Town manager, is back in business in the Football Conference. He has been given the task of resurrecting the fortunes of Woking, following last week's dismissal of John McGovern.

McDermott, the former Arsenal winger, was an innocent victim of Slough's financial and administrative problems in the summer, when the Berkshire club were voted out of the Conference. Now he has assumed responsibility for steering the Cardinals, as Woking are known, away from their unaccustomed position at the bottom of the league.

"As far as I'm concerned, the league table is upside down," Woking's chairman, Jon Davies, said yesterday. "We've brought McDermott in to settle things down. He has plenty of experience, and he knows the local scene."

Since his appointment McDermott has presided over draws at home to Yeovil Town and, on Tuesday, away to the Conference leaders, Cheltenham Town. "There have been some encouraging signs," Davies, who intends to discuss a contract with his new manager in the near future, added.

After six defeats in the first seven games of the season, McGovern became the first Woking manager to be sacked since 1981. Last season's third-place finish was not enough to save the former Nottingham Forest captain, who replaced the high-profile Geoff Chapple in July last year.

"Geoff Chapple was a hard act to follow, but we were unhappy with the way the team was playing," John Taylor, Woking's vice-chairman, said last week. "McGovern promised to get new players in, and the funds were available for that, but he seemed unable to attract them."

It has cost the Surrey club about £70,000 to pay off the 18 months left on their former manager's two-year contract. However, that expenditure has been covered by a fee of £80,000 received from Fulham for the wing-back Kevin Betsy. His price will rise to £125,000 if he makes sufficient first-team appearances for the Second Division side.

Betsy has been replaced at Woking by the former Tottenham full-back Brian Statham, who has arrived on loan from Gillingham. Another former Spurs player, the 35-year-old goalkeeper Tony Parks, has joined Barrow on loan from Burnley.

Rushden & Diamonds lost the leadership of the Conference to Cheltenham in bizarre circumstances on Tuesday. Leading 1-0 at Leek Town with five minutes remaining, the match was abandoned following a loud explosion and subsequent fire at a chemical works adjacent to Leek's Harrison Park stadium.

Visiting Rushden supporters were unhappy that they were evacuated from the ground via the exit nearest the blaze, rather than by a safer way out. There were no reported injuries to spectators, however.

Derek Mountfield, the former Everton and Aston Villa centre-half, has been appointed manager of the Dr Martens League club Bromsgrove Rovers, in succession to Steve Daley, the former Wolves and Manchester City midfielder.

Mountfield had been playing for another Dr Martens club, Moor Green, since his release by Walsall in the summer. His new club, Bromsgrove, have sold the ex-Crystal Palace forward Steve Taylor to their Worcestershire neighbours, Kidderminster Harriers, for an undisclosed five-figure fee.

Grand strides of the Simms boy wonders

Featherstone are one step away from joining the Super League thanks to a coach who believes there is a substitute for experience. By Dave Hadfield

WHEN STEVE SIMMS talks about his young players, you start to believe that an overgrown village that is the antithesis of Super League's national and international aspirations will have a team in that competition next season.

Featherstone Rovers are one match away from winning the right to apply for Super League membership. If they beat Wakefield Trinity in the First Division Grand Final at Huddersfield tomorrow, it will be hard to deny them their dream.

It is a dream to which Simms has made a characteristic contribution. At his local club, South Sydney, and in Britain with Leigh and Halifax, he has always been a coach to give youth its head.

Not that he had much choice at Featherstone, where the first thing he had to do was cut the wage bill to balance the books. Not for the first time, the kids have done him proud.

With Simms that is a whole philosophy. At Souths, he introduced the 16-year-olds like Terry Hill, Jim Dymock and Jim Serdaris to his Under-21s side. All three went on to play for Australia.

In England, he has launched careers, like those of Paul Rowley and Chris Chester, which will surely lead to Test caps. But he has never been as enthused as he is by some of his youngsters at Featherstone.

"The only difference between a 17-year-old and a 26-year-old is that the 17-year-old will get better. At 26, you might hold your form, but you're not going to improve.

"Some coaches take the easy option by bringing in experience, but that's not what coaching is about to me. You just have to show faith in the kids. They never let you down."

That has certainly been the case this season. After a sluggish start, Featherstone have improved on the back of the rapid strides made by young players like Stuart Dickens, Neil Lowe, Richard Chapman and Karl Pratt.

"If Dickens isn't the best young front-rower in Britain, I don't know who is. He's going to play for Great Britain. He's a clever, smart player – all class, good ball skills and he's probably the best goal-kicker at the club."

Lowe, also 19, gets a similar rave review. "He's the best back-rower I've ever brought through. His work-rate and defence are outstanding, he's scored some great tries and he's got a kicking game."

Alongside those two, Chapman is an old man of 23, but there is a verve about his play as hooker and dummy half that fits in with the Simms approach.

"Richard has just got better and better. When he came to us from Sheffield, he just wanted to run all the time. That was all he knew how to do, but now he's become a play-maker."

There is no doubt about the jewel in the Featherstone crown, however, because in Pratt they have the most scrutinised and coveted player outside Super League.

Only just 18, Pratt is a Great Britain stand-off in the making, currently honing his skills on the left wing and scoring tries for fun. "He's already one of the best finishers in the game," says Simms. "His pace is outstanding, and he's very strong. He's going to go all the way, there's no doubt about that."

But all the way, via where? That is the question. Simms admits that defeat tomorrow, or failure to get into Super League, will inevitably mean some or all of his outstanding crop of young players moving on.

"I would never stand in their way," he says, but cannot see why they should not all play in Super League with Featherstone Rovers.

"There's nothing wrong with the ground or the facilities. And, as far as crowd potential is concerned, if we were playing Wigan and Leeds, we would draw more than Sheffield, London and Gateshead.

"We have the players who could compete at that level. There are players in Super League who aren't up to Super League standard; there are better players in the First Division."

Remarkably, Simms still does not know whether he will be with his young charges next year. If they are not there, he might not be either, because he has not even spoken to Featherstone yet about extending a contract that ends in December.

"They don't know how they're going to be fixed, because they don't know which division they're going to be in and how much money they're going to have. I'd like to stay, but we'll just have to see how it works out."

Steve Simms: 'You just have to show faith in the kids. They never let you down' *Varley Picture Agency*

Council approves 'super' ground

BY DAVE HADFIELD

CASTLEFORD HAVE been given the go-ahead from their local council for the new ground which they hope will secure their Super League future into the new century.

Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council has given its approval in principle to a new multi-sports complex near the M62 at Whitwood.

Castleford have been at their ground at Wheldon Road in the town centre since 1927, but the club's chief executive, Richard Wright, said: "We have been the sporting centre for the community at Wheldon Road for more than 70 years. These plans would provide our home for the next 70 years."

The initial plans are for two grandstands and two terraced ends, but eventually for an all-seater, 15,000 capacity stadium, which Castleford believe would be suitable for semi-finals and representative matches.

News of Castleford's progress comes as their two neighbouring clubs, Wakefield and Featherstone, contemplate a future in Super League. The winners of tommorow's First Division Grand Final will apply for a place in the competition. Featherstone's committee has rejected suggestions that the two clubs should join forces.

That Grand Final and all Super League matches this weekend will begin with a minute's silence in memory of Alan Prescott, the captain of the victorious Great Britain side in The Battle of Brisbane in 1958, who died last week. The finalists will wear black armbands.

Lancashire Lynx, the winners of the Second Division, have sacked their team manager, Kevin Tamati, after he asked for a pay rise. The departure leaves the club's coach, Steve Hampson, in sole charge for the *Treize Tournoi*, in which English and French clubs will compete next month.

Melbourne awaits a 'grand' final

AUSTRALIAN RULES

BY RICK BOWMAN

TOMORROW 98,000 fans will pack the Melbourne Cricket Ground for the Australian Football League Grand Final between North Melbourne and Adelaide. The game has generated such excitement this year that the ground's already huge capacity could be doubled or tripled – and still leave thousands of spectators wishing they could get a ticket. Earlier this week, A$77 tickets were changing hands for A$750, and prices are bound to rise further.

Forget about Ashes Test matches, Open tennis or Rugby League finals – the AFL Grand Final is the biggest event on the Australian sporting calendar.

But, like weddings and exams, eagerly-anticipated events can sometimes disappoint. Michelangelo Rucci, the chief football reporter for the Adelaide Advertiser, said: "There hasn't been a good Grand Final for a long time."

But tomorrow looks like it will be different. "The two teams have been nip and tuck all year," said Rucci. "If there was ever going to be a really good final, it would have to be this year."

North, who finished top of the ladder at the end of the home and away round, have won their last 11 matches and, as the *Melbourne Age* football writer Stephen Riley said: "North are the most physically punishing team in the game, and they are the best combination, too. They have been extremely consistent, not finishing lower than fourth in the last five years."

On the other hand, 1997 premiers Adelaide had a more mixed season, only just managing to get into the finals. Since then, though, despite one early loss, they have had a superb finals round. Riley said: "The Crows seem to have tapered their preparation. They are peaking at the right time. Also, man to man, in terms of skills, teamwork and sheer ability, they are regarded as the best football team in the country."

But eyes will not only be on the players tomorrow. In many ways the contest is a vindication of the talent and approach of the coaches – Malcolm Blight of Adelaide and Dennis Pagan of North Melbourne. Both men are highly intelligent, experienced, inspirational – and successful. Both took over their clubs when they were languishing at the bottom of the table and within a season or two transformed them. As *The Advertiser's* Rucci said: "Before Blight, Adelaide were a joke. They would play well for a while and then just fold. Then Blight came in and went through the club from top to bottom. I call him the Messiah."

While Pagan is not as charismatic as Blight, he shares his thorough professionalism. Highly disciplined and systematic, he has transformed North's style of play by pioneering the return of the long-kicking game.

And Blight shares his philosophy: "The more you handle the ball the more mistakes you can make," he said. Accordingly, North and Adelaide are the two most efficient teams in the league, handling the ball the least and achieving the most.

All this adds up to the fact that it is almost impossible to tip the winner. But a characteristic of Australian football crowds is that their desire to see a good, close game is almost as strong as their desire to see their team win. If the game is no good, many spectators will just get up and leave.

■ The 1998 AFL Grand Final will be broadcast live on Sky Sports 1 from 5.30am tomorrow.

■ Australian Football League website: www.afl.com.au

■ The *Melbourne Age* live online coverage of the game: www.theage.com.au/footy98

AFL GRAND FINAL

THE GAME

Australian Rules is played by 18 players on each side (plus four interchange players) over four 25-minute quarters (plus extra time). The ball can be kicked or handballed (punched), but not thrown. Scoring is by goals (six points) and behinds (one point) when the ball is kicked between the relevant goalposts. Beyond this the game is easy to understand, although the interpretation of some rules (such as holding the ball) is not. For football and rugby fans, the distinguishing characteristic of Australian Rules is that there is no offside rule, which means that the ball travels back and forward very quickly, play is open and fast, and scoring is high. A close-fought game can be one of the most exciting of all sporting spectacles.

THE TEAMS

NORTH MELBOURNE

Nickname: The Kangaroos or Roos. **Premierships:** 3. **Last Premiership:** 1996. **Coach:** Dennis Pagan. **Players to watch:** Wayne Carey, Corey McKernan.

ADELAIDE

Nickname: The Crows. **Premierships:** 1 (1997). **Coach:** Malcolm Blight. **Players to watch:** Andrew McLeod, Darren Jarman, Shaun Rehn.

Westwood responds to Montgomerie pressure

GOLF

COLIN MONTGOMERIE threw down the gauntlet to his Order of Merit rivals – and found Lee Westwood more than willing to take up the challenge.

Montgomerie, five times the rankings winner, took advantage of good early playing conditions to fire a brilliant first-round 65, seven under par, at the Linde German Masters in Cologne.

That put the pressure firmly on Westwood, who is just £22,000 ahead of the Scot in the race for the end-of-season title – there is £166,660 on offer for the winner in Cologne.

The 25-year-old Worksop golfer responded superbly to record 66, just one behind Montgomerie, Vijay Singh and Maidenhead's Van Phillips.

Westwood's score was matched by Richard Boxall, Ian Garbutt, Jarmo Sandelin of Sweden and home favourite Sven Struver as the field made the most of a relatively short course. Darren Clarke, second in the current money table, managed only 69 as he complained of missing too many putts.

Montgomerie had no such problems – rating his putting nine out of 10. "It's not right by any means, but I started to putt a lot better and see the lines that I didn't at the start of the year," he said.

Westwood was equally happy with his round, which began with four straight birdies, all from within 20 feet, and contained just one dropped shot. "My back is not giving me any trouble and, although I'm tired, I had two day's rest and I think that's helped," said Westwood, who finished joint last in the Lancôme Trophy in Paris.

Playing partner Singh had no problems adapting to the conditions. He had seven birdies in total – he was three under after three – and no bogeys and looked in ominous form ahead of the defence of his World Matchplay title at Wentworth.

Nick Faldo was not so happy with his opening round of 71 after another frustrating day with the putter. "I pushed a three iron into the water for a double bogey on the ninth and never felt comfortable on the front nine," said Faldo. "I hit it better on the back nine but only holed one long putt all day on the 14th."

Justin Rose fared even worse in his last chance to earn enough money to avoid going to the Tour qualifying school in November.

The 18-year-old needs at least a top-four finish but slumped to a four-over 76 and now looks certain to face the trials of the qualifying in Spain.

SPORTING DIGEST

ATHLETICS

Ronaldo da Costa and Tegla Loroupe, who have set world bests in the men's and women's marathons respectively this year, will compete in Sunday's world half marathon championships in Zurich.

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE: Milwaukee 8 Chicago Cubs 7; San Francisco 4 Pittsburgh 1; Philadelphia 4 Cincinnati 2; Atlanta 11 Florida 0; Montreal 3 NY Mets 0; Colorado 14 Arizona 11; Houston 7 St Louis 1; San Diego 3 Los Angeles 2; Boston 5 Tampa Bay 4; Toronto 6 Baltimore 3; NY Yankees 8 Cleveland 4; Detroit 5 Kansas City 1; Minnesota 7 Chicago White Sox 6 (12 innings); Texas 7 Anaheim 1; Oakland 8 Seattle 3

CYCLING

Spain's Roberto Heras won the 170-km 19th stage of the Tour of Spain from Avila to Segovia on Thursday. The Kelme team made it a one-two finish as his fellow Spaniard Fernando Escartin followed him home. Banesto rider Abraham Olano retained the overall lead.

TOUR OF SPAIN 19th stage (107.4 km, Avila to Segovia): 1 R Heras (Sp) Kelme 4 hours 13 mins 26 sec; 2 F Escartin (Sp) Kelme; 3 A Galdeano (Sp) Euskaltel; 4 L Jalabert (Fr) ONCE; 5 G Simoni (It) Cantina Tollo; 6 M Serpellini (It) Bresciaini; 7 A Olano (Sp) Banesto; 8 A Zulle (Swit) Lotus; 9 D Clavero (Sp) Vitalicio Seguros; 10 A Zintchenko (Rus) Vitalicio Seguros; 11 L Armstrong (US) US Postal, 12 N Aebersold (Swit) Post Swiss; 13 M Serrano (Sp) Kelme; 14 IM Jimenez (Sp) Banesto; 15 J Odriozola (Sp) Banesto; 16 J Castelblanco (Col) Avianca; 17 F Gougot (Fr) Casino, 18 R Virenque (Fr) Lotus, 19 JC Dominguez (Sp) Vitalicio Seguros; 20 M Beltran (Sp) Banesto. **Leading overall standings:** 1 Olano 83hr 14min 13sec; 2 Jalabert +32sec; 3 Jimenez +31; 4 Escartin +37; 5 Heras +2:05; 6 Zulle +2:12; 7 Clavero +2:17; 8 Galdeano +3:03; 9 Armstrong +3:20; 10 Castelblanco +4:24; 11 Virenque +4:52, 12 Serpellini +6:52; 13 Serrano +6:54, 14 D Plaza (Sp) Colnago +8:21; 15 Odriozola +9:13, 16 Simoni +1:36, 17 Beltran +12:41, 18 Gougot +14:38; 19 F G Casas (Sp) Lotus +17:07; 20 A Zintchenko (Rus) Vitalicio Seguros +18:16.

EQUESTRIANISM

HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW (Wembley Arena): Woodpecker Stakings Golden Jubilee Trophy: 1 Virtual Village Welham (J Whitaker, GB) clear, 45.24sec; 2 Calero (R Brit, Neth) clear, 46.55; 3 Carpe Diem (R Brit, Neth) clear, 46.95. Grandstand Media Cup: 1 Virtual Village Twostep (M Whitaker, GB) clear, 47.29sec; 2 Bollworm's Burggravin (R Brit, Neth) clear, 47.99; 3 Jappeloup (D Hendricks, Bel) clear, 48.26. Junior Newcomers Championship: 1 Edendale Sunshine (A Narsapur) clear, 37.81sec; 2 Melbourcroft Minstrel (A Pybus) clear, 39.65; 3 Tolly (L Stephenson) clear, 43.18.

FOOTBALL

Austria's Sturm Graz could be forced to field untried 17-year-old goalkeeper Alexander Knezevic for next Wednesday's European Champions' League game against Italy's Internazionale at San Siro because of injury doubts over first-choice Pole, Kazimierz Sidorczuk.

GOLF

GERMAN MASTERS (Cologne) First round (GB or Irl unless stated): 65 C Montgomerie, V Singh (Fiji), V Phillips; 66 S Struver (Ger), L Westwood, R Boxall, I Garbutt, J Sandelin (Swe); 67 G Brand Jnr, J Van De Velde (Fr), P Haugerud (Nor), D Chopra (Swe), R Russell; 68 D Carter, R Chapman, C Suneson (Sp), P-U Johansson (Swe), C Whitelaw (SA), G Turner (NZ), I Fyman, R Karlsson (Swe), R Goosen (SA), B Faxon (US), M Farry (Fr), S Webster, P O'Malley (Aus), M Tunnicliff, S Luna (Sp), P Broadhurst, S Grappasonni (It); 69 D Clarke (N Ire), B Langer (Ger), P McGinley, I Garrido (Sp), J Rivero (Sp), JM Olazabal (Sp), P Eales, P Price, J Payne, K Eriksson (Swe), M James, P Harrington, S Richardson; 70 T Gogele (Ger), P Mitchell, R Davis (Aus), C Rocca (It), G Evans, A Oldcorn, S Allan (Aus), A Weal, G Nicklaus (US), D Borrego (Sp), P Baker; 71 M Gronberg (Swe), M Reale (It), P Lonard (Aus), D Hospital (Sp), M Long (NZ), K Tomori (Japan), D Howell, M Halberg (Swe), P Hedblom (Swe), N Faldo, J Spence, M Roe, G Orr, S Henderson, MP Thul (Ger), S Torrance, D Cooper; 72 M Lanner, F Jacobson (Swe), F Tarnaud (Fr), S Ballesteros (Sp), B Davis, MA Jimenez (Sp), C Watts, E Darcy, D Edlund (Swe), T Henning (Ger); 73 W Riley (Aus), E Darnek (Ger), J Lomas, P Sjoland (Swe), D Robertson, D Gilford, M Jonzon (Swe); 74 R Wessels (SA), M Mackenzie, R Green (Aus), S Hoch (US), M Mouland, T Johnstone (Zim), R Claydon, S Cage, T Levet (Fr); 75 F Lubenau (Ger); 76 P Lawrie, M Maritreb (Ger), J Haeggman (Swe), J Rose; 77 P Walton, R Burns (N Ire); 78 T Diez (Ger); 79 A Celka (Ger); 80 A Forsbrand (Swe); Withdrawn: T Bjorn (Den).

ELF SENIORS OPEN (Pau, France) First round (GB or Irl unless stated): 64 B Hardwick (Can); 66 L Monroe (US), B Waites; 67 J Rhodes, B Marvey (SA); 68 T Haines, D O'Sullivan, M Slater, A O'Connor, J Fourie (SA), M Bembridge, N Coles, S Lancaster (US); 69 M Hooper, T Horton, J Hudson, C Defoy, D Jones, P Townsend, J Cabo (Sp); 70 A Garrido (Sp), C Jervis, H Fiddian, S Wild, TR Jones (US), N Ratcliffe (Aus).

OLYMPICS

The Salt Lake Organizing Committee has announced a £1.4 billion budget to stage what officials hope will be a successful yet frugal 2002 Winter Games. The spending plan is larger than the amount Nagano, Japan, spent to host this year's Winter Olympics.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Huddersfield are releasing the Australian pair Chris Orr and Jeff Wittenberg to make way for a new crop of overseas players. Scrum-half Orr and the former Bradford Bulls prop Wittenberg have played one season for the Super League strugglers. The club are thought to have agreed a three-year deal with the St Helens utility forward Ian Pickavance.

SAILING

Britain yesterday won the British American Cup by nine races to one for the first time since 1995. Sailed in First-Class 8s, the four boat British team was skippered by Steve Tylecote, Stuart Hudson, Greg Eaton and Laurence Mead against a group organised by Seawanaka Corinthian Yacht Club of Long Island Sound, US.

BRITISH AMERICAN CUP Final result (after three days): 1 GB 9 wins, US 1 win.

BELGES 24 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Torquay): Provisional Results: Race Five: 1 G Zuccoli (It) 2 K Thelen (Fin) 3 D Chapin (US) 4 B Porter (US) 5 T Freyling (US) 6 S Col (Fr). Race Six: 1 P Moberg (Nor) 2 G Zuccoli (It) 3 D Chapin (US) 4 I Walker (GB) 5 E Ich (Ger) 6 B Porter (US). **Overall after six races (with one discard):** 1 Zuccoli 22.7pts 2 Porter 34.4 3 Walker 39.7 4 Chapin 52.1 5 K Sprowl (GB) 58.7 6 A Weatherall (GB) 62.7.

NOMINEES FOR THE WORLD SAILOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS: *Men:* B Ainslie (GB); Crew of EF Language (Multi-National); M Desjoyeaux (Fr); M Kusznierewicz (Pol). **Women:** E Allson (US); C Brouwer (Neth); Crew of EF Education (Multi-National); Crew of Royal Sun Alliance (Multi-National). Voting will be completed by 16 October and the winners will be announced on Tuesday, 3 November at the ISAF Annual Dinner and World Sailor of the Year Awards Presentation in Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

SUMO

AUTUMN GRAND TOURNAMENT (Ryogoku Kokugikan Arena): Akinoshu bt Toki; Kinkaiyama bt Kotoinazuma; Asanosho bt Okiari; Tokitsuumi bt Hamanoshima; Ganyu bt Higonoumi; Tochinowaka bt Gojoro; Wakanoja bt Mizokami; Terao bt Kotoriishi; Asanowaka bt Kotoryu; Kaiho bt Kyokushuzan; Kaio bt Aogiyama; Tochiizuma bt Asahiyutaka; Musoyama bt Minatofuji; Kotonowaka bt Dejima; Chiyotaikai bt Takatorikl; Takanonami bt Wakanosato; Akebono bt Musashimaru; Takanohana bt Tochinonada; Wakanohana bt Tamakizuga.

SWIMMING

Matthew Dunn set a world record in the men's 400 metres individual medley at the Australian national short-course swimming championships in Perth yesterday. Dunn clocked one minute 04.24 seconds to slice more than a second off the previous mark of 4:05.41 set by Marcel Wouda of the Netherlands in Paris in February last year.

TENNIS

Jeremy Bates leads Britain's Over-35 team into today's final of the Italia Cup at Winchester. The British team, who defeated Germany 2-1 in yesterday afternoon's semi-final, face Italy, who upset title holders US.

WTA PRINCESS CUP (Tokyo): Singles, second round: A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt E Likhovtseva (Rus) 6-0 6-4; O Barabanschikova (Bela) bt D Van Roost (Bel) 3-6 6-3 7-5; A Kournikova (Rus) bt W Shi-ting (Taiw) 6-0 6-4; A Huber (Ger) bt Li Fang (Chin) 7-5 6-3. **Doubles, quarter-finals:** L Raymond (US) and R Stubbs (Aus) bt O Barabanschikova (Bela) and H Nagyova (Slovak) 6-3 6-2; E Likhovtseva (Rus) and T Tanasugarn (Thai) bt K-A Guse (Aus) and Park Sung-Hee (S Kor) 6-2 6-3; A Kournikova (Rus) and M Seles (US) bt L McShea (Aus) & K Po (US) 6-2 6-0.

IZA SATELLITE (Sunderland) Men's singles, second round: M Lee (GB) bt M Hilton (GB) 7-7 6-4; J Brand (Ger) bt G Darlington (GB) 7-5 6-2, M Gregoric (Slovak) bt I Bates (GB) 6-3 6-2, M Zanlovic (Bos) bt D Crawley (GB) 6-2 6-2; P Gottesleben (Ger) bt D Sherwood (GB) 6-0 6-4; A Palmer (GB) bt R Hanger (GB) 6-7 6-1 7-5; R Matheson (GB) bt T Clemens (Ger) 6-1 6-4; L Milligan (GB) bt J Fox (GB) 4-1 retd. **Women's singles, quarter finals:** L Perkins (GB) bt E Dyrberg (Den) 6-3 3-6 6-1; M Burk (Ger) bt G Gultekin (Tur) 6-1 3-6 6-4; J Lutrova (Rus) bt H Crook (GB) 6-2 6-1; L Steinbach (Ger) bt J Choudhury (GB) 5-2 6-4.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES (São Luis): Brazil 1 (Marcelinho 16) Yugoslavia 1 (Milosevic 7); (Guayaquil): Spain 1 (Alkiza 39) Russia 0; (Tallinn): Estonia 2 (Nõrs 29, Zelinski 43) Egypt 2 (Enrem 77, H Hassan 87); (Chisinau): Moldova 0 Romania 0.

WORTHINGTON CUP Second round second leg: Crystal Palace 2 Bury 1 (Bury win 4-2 on aggregate). Everton 2 Huddersfield 1 (Everton win 3-2 on aggregate); Manchester City 0 Derby 1 (Derby win 2-1 on aggregate); Reading 1 (Barnsley win 4-1 on aggregate); Southampton 0 Fulham 1 (Fulham win 2-1 on aggregate); Tottenham 3 Brentford 2 (Tottenham win 6-4 on aggregate).

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Celtic 0 St Johnstone 1; Hearts 3 Motherwell 0; Kilmarnock 2 Dundee 1; Aberdeen 1 Rangers 1; Dundee Utd 1 Dunfermline 1.

LEAGUE OF WALES Gilbert Cup first round: Aberystwyth 1 Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff 2; Caernarfon 2 Rhyl 1; Carmarthen 1 Haverfordwest 2; TNS Llansantffraid 1 Connah's Quay Nomads 1.

FA CUP First qualifying round replays: Canterbury 1 Metropolitan Police 1 (aet, Canterbury win 4-3 on penalties); Penrith 6 Ecclesfield 0; Ryoope CA 2 Chadderton 1; Harrogate Railway 2 Grema 1; Solihull 4 Paget 2.

UNIBOND LEAGUE First Division: Belper 0 Hucknall 0; Bradford PA 0 Trafford 0. **President's Cup first round:** Eastwood Town 1 Guiseley 3; Gainsborough 5 Lincoln Utd 2.

RYMAN LEAGUE First Division: Braintree 8 Leyton Pennant 2.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Gateborough 2 Bedlington 3; Jarrow 1 Marske 2.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE First Division: St Helens 3 Boode 0; Clitheroe 0 Ramsbottom 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Brigg 1 Buxton 1; Sheffield 6 Thackley 0.

JENSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Downton 2 Fareham 2; East Cowes 1 Brockenhurst 2.

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Leeds 0 Leicester 1; Birmingham 1 Preston 1. **First Division:** Port Vale 1 Tranmere 0; Bolton 2 West Bromwich 1; Oldham 2 Wolves 0. **Second Division:** Sheffield Utd 2 Stockport 2; Blackpool 2 Notts County 0; Wrexham 0 York 1; Scarborough 3 Bradford City 2. **Third Division:** Walsall 1 Hartlepool 1; Darlington 1 Chesterfield 2; Hull 0 Carlisle 2; Wigan 0 Halifax 0; Scunthorpe 2 Rochdale 0.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Brighton 0 Northampton 0; Cambridge Utd 1 Peterborough 4; Colchester 1 Wimbledon 1; Crystal Palace 2 Barnet 3; Gillingham 0 Queen's Park Rangers 2; Ipswich 3 Bournemouth 1; Millwall 3 Wycombe 0; Portsmouth 4 Oxford Utd 1; Swindon 0 Luton 1; Millwall 3 Wycombe 0.

ITALIAN CUP Second round second leg: Juventus 4 Ravenna 0 (agg: 6-0); Vicenza 3 Brescia 0 (agg: 5-3); Venezia 2 Cagliari 1 (agg: 2-1); Bologna 3 Reggina 0 (agg: 4-1); Verona 1 Sampdoria 0 (agg: 1-2); Fiorentina 2 Padova 0 (agg: 3-0); Empoli 0 Atalanta 0 (agg. 1-2); Udinese 4 Giulio 0 (agg: 6-2); Bari 2 Lucchese 0 (agg: 2-1); Milan 3 Torino 0 (agg: 3-2); Genoa 0 Parma 1 (agg: 0-4); Cosenza 0 Lazio 2 (agg: 1-4); Salernitana 0 Cesena 0 (agg: 0-2); Piacenza 2 Lecce 3 (aet, agg: 4-4; Lecce win on away goals).

GERMAN CUP Second round: Sportfreunde Siegen 1 Freiburg 0; Carl Zeiss Jena 1 MSV Duisburg 2; VfL Wolfsburg 3 Nuremberg 0 (aet); Uerdingen 1 St Pauli 1 (aet, Uerdingen won 5-4 on penalties); Greuther Fürth 0 Bayern Munich 0 (aet, Bayern won 4-3 on penalties); Borussia Dortmund 1 Schalke 0 (aet).

DUTCH LEAGUE: Fortuna Sittard 1 Ajax 0; Willem II Tilburg 2 Cambuur Leeuwarden 1; Heerenveen 1 Utrecht 0; Twente Enschede 2 MVV Maastricht 1; Vitesse Arnhem 2 RKC Waalwijk 0; NAC Breda 1 AZ Alkmaar 1; Graafschap Doetinchem 0 Sparta Rotterdam 3.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Club Bruges 0 Lommel 1; Charleroi 2 Lierse 1; Ostend 1 Genk 1.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: Chicago Fire 3 New England Revolution 2.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

Tranmere v Swindon (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Leigh RMI v Lancaster (7.30).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Newtown v Holywell (7.30).

HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Bohemians v Bray Wanderers (7.45); Dundalk v Derry City (7.45); Shelbourne v Sligo Rovers (7.45); Waterford v Shamrock Rovers (7.45).

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Liverpool v Manchester Utd (7.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE: St Helens v Sheffield (7.30).

RUGBY UNION

EUROPEAN CUP Pool A: Leinster v Stade Français (6.30).

EUROPEAN SHIELD Pool C: Pau v Biarritz (7.0).

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Newcastle v Birmingham (7.30); Sheffield v Chester (7.45).

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Manchester Storm v Kingston Hawks (7.30).

OTHER SPORTS

MOTORCYCLING: British Superbike Championship 12th round (to Sunday) (at Donington Park).

TENNIS: Davis Cup World Group qualifying round: Great Britain v India (to Sunday) (at Nottingham).

TODAY'S NUMBER

523

The number of spectators – a club record low – at the 69,041-capacity Stadio Delle Alpi for Juventus's 4-0 Italian Cup victory over Ravenna on Wednesday.

SPORT

SAILING'S ULTIMATE CHALLENGE P25 ● SPURS CLOSE IN ON GRAHAM P28

Brazil's performance eclipsed by referee

FOOTBALL

BRAZIL, PLAYING their first game since the World Cup final, drew 1-1 with Yugoslavia in a friendly on Wednesday – but the match was marred by controversial refereeing from a Brazilian referee.

Attention had focused on how Brazil would play under their debutant coach Vanderley Luxemburgo, who is admired for the panache with which his club sides play.

Instead, commentators were left wondering why local officials had been appointed for the match, played in the northern city of São Luis. Yugoslavia, whose 10-man team celebrated their draw as if they had won the World Cup, were incensed when Sidrack Marinho sent off their midfielder Nenad Grozic in the 50th minute for a second bookable offence, a seemingly innocuous challenge on Brazil's Marcelino Carioca.

Shortly afterwards, the Yugoslav bench was up in arms after Savo Milosevic was denied an excellent chance to score by an offside flag, even though he appeared to be onside when the ball was played. A Brazilian touchline reporter quoted Yugoslav officials as saying they had left the matter of refereeing in the hands of the Brazilian Football Confederaton.

The game was lively in the first half but fell away after Grozic was dismissed. "It was the referee who spoiled the game," said the former Brazilian international, Rivelino.

Milovsevic, the former Aston Villa striker, had opened the scoring in the sixth minute with a superbly executed goal while Marcelinho replied from a free kick 11 minutes later.

"They didn't want to play after the sending-off," complained Luxemburgo. "They were playing anti-football. But it was a good test."

Luxemburgo, who replaced the sacked Mario Zagallo, gave debuts to the goalkeeper Andre, the midfielder Vampeta and the left-back Felipe, while Denilson, Rivaldo and Cafu were the only survivors from the team that played against France in the World Cup final. The defender Nenad Sakic and the midfielder Jovan Stankovic made their debuts for Yugoslavia in the starting line-up.

Luxemburgo barely had time to take his seat before seeing his team fall behind. Dejan Petkovic split the home defence with an incisive pass to Milosevic and the Real Zaragoza striker calmly chipped the ball over Andre to silence the home crowd.

Brazil responded by creating three good chances in a 10-minute spell, with Denilson missing one from point-blank range and Marcelinho seeing an effort well-saved by Ivica Krajl, before equalising in the 17th minute.

Marcelinho, whose only previous appearance was as a substitute against the same opponents four years ago, curled a free-kick around a badly-placed wall and the wrong-footed Krajl.

Rivaldo twice came close to putting Brazil ahead before half-time, hitting the crossbar with a long-range free-kick and then shooting weakly at Krajl after Vampeta had set him up by threading the ball through the middle of the defence.

Yugoslavia, surprisingly, had the better of the match after the sending-off, with Slavisa Jokanovic missing the best chance, a far post header from close range following a corner. In the last minute, the substitute Christian – a transfer target for Rangers – had an excellent chance to give Brazil victory but failed to connect properly.

Brazil: Andre; Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Ceber, Felipe (Serginho), Marcos Assuncão, Vampeta (Rogerio), Marcelinho (Jackson), Rivaldo (Christian), Muller, Denilson (Alex).

Yugoslavia: Krajl (Zilic); Ngegus (Nedj), Savic, Djukic, Djorovic, Stanovic (Sarac), Jokanovic, Grozdic, Petrovic (Curcic), Milosevic (Kovacevic), Mijatovic.

Referee: S Marinho (Brazil).

FA to appoint 'sleaze buster'

BY TIM MOYNIHAN

THE INVESTIGATION of dodgy deals, violent conduct and racist abuse are to come under the control of new disciplinary chief appointed by the Football Association.

Far-ranging powers will be given to the "sleaze-buster", whose brief will be to clamp down on the sort of scandals which have dogged the game over the past few years. Several hundred applicants are already being considered for the post.

One of the most important areas for investigation will be club finances, because of the hundreds of millions of pounds which have poured into the national game since advent of live televised football.

The FA will be going through the most thorough vetting procedure to get the right person for the task in order to restore confidence that all is well behind the scenes in football.

The moves follow the recommendations of Sir John Smith, the former Metropolitan Police deputy commissioner, in his report into football's finances and reputation in January.

Yesterday's announcement came within hours of Steve Burtenshaw being ordered to pay a total of £10,000 by the FA following the "bungs inquiry".

Burtenshaw, the former Arsenal chief scout now at Queen's Park Rangers, admitted misconduct last week before an FA commission in connection with the transfer of midfielder John Jensen from Brondby to Arsenal in 1992.

He apologised at the hearing for having accepted £35,000 from the agent Rune Hauge two months after Jensen arrived at Highbury in the transfer deal which led to former Arsenal manager George Graham's one-year ban from the game.

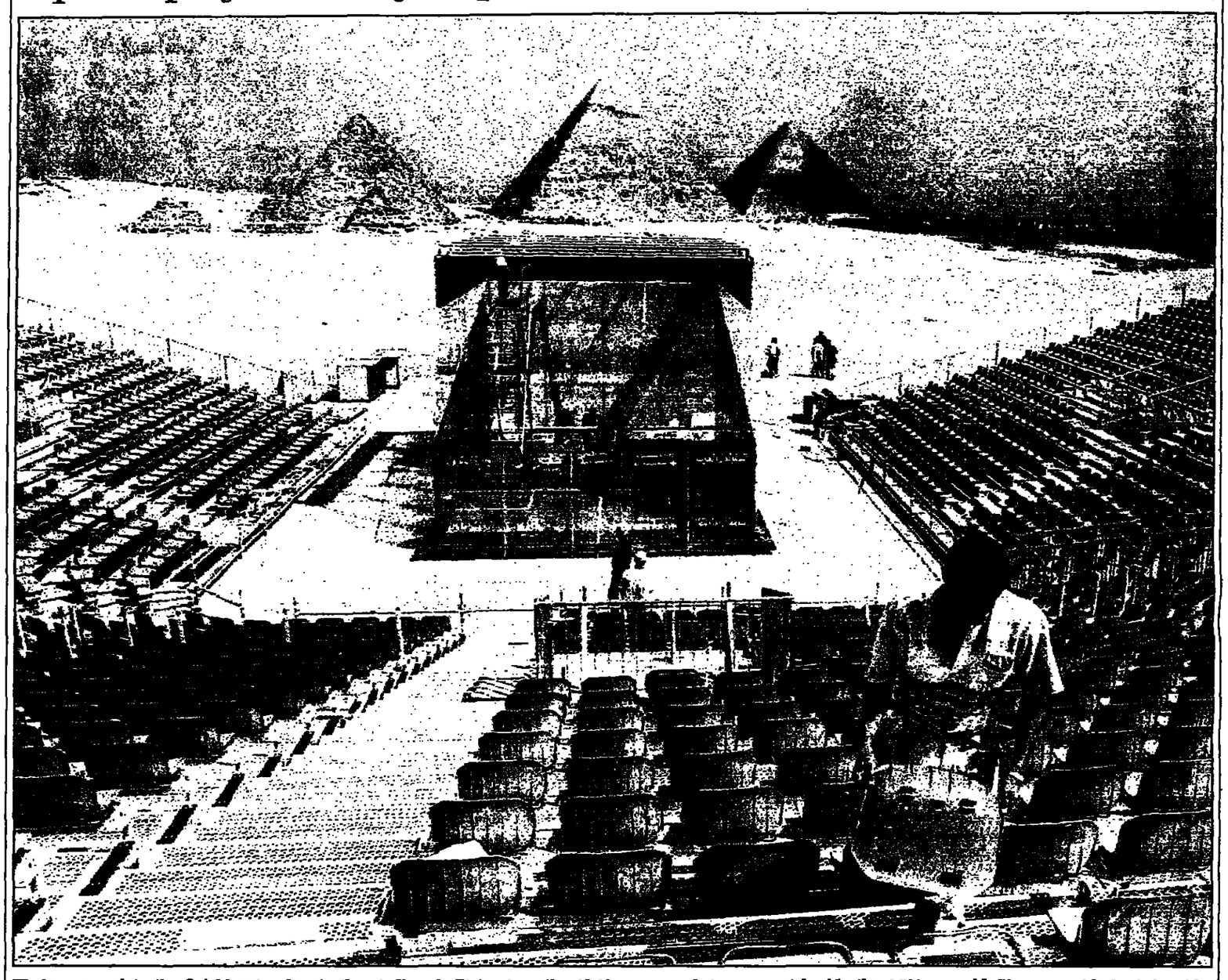
Burtenshaw is considering an appeal, believing the fine of £7,500 and order to pay £2,500 costs are unduly severe.

Sir John urged the FA to become a stronger, more proactive governing body and to establish a unit to oversee financial matters.

"Football must put its own house in order, if for no other reason than to obviate the prospect of public authorities stepping in to regulate football from the outside," Sir John said.

"Several hundred applicants are already being considered for a new senior post to deal specifically with all disciplinary issues which often require detailed investigation and prosecution," an FA spokesman said. "The successful candidate's task will cover offences as varied as violent conduct, financial irregularities and racist abuse."

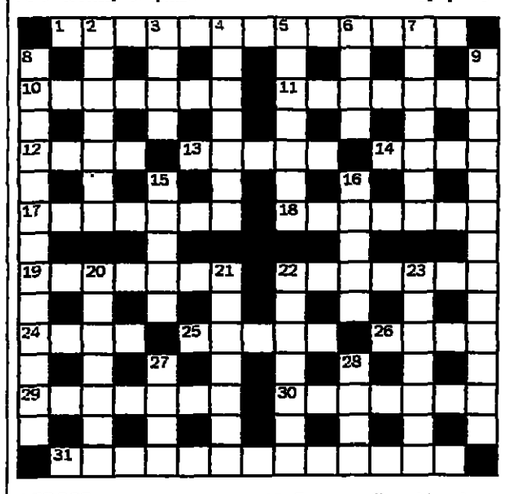
Squash players ready to peak in the shadow of the pyramids



Workers complete the finishing touches to the stadium built to stage the Al-Ahram squash tournament beside the 4,500-year-old Giza pyramids in Cairo. The tournament, which features many of the world's leading players, begins on Sunday *Reuters*

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3725. Friday 25 September — By Spurius



Thursday's solution

ROLLERCOASTER
D L I E A A C E
ENDEAVOUR TELEX
M T N R S I A P
OLIVE DOMINATOR
N M E E S E
SHELTER NIPPERS
T R E A X S
RESORTS CURRENT
A M C E C R
TACTICIAN LAURA
I L N A T E T I
VIOLA TRAGEDIAN
E S T I V D O S
LEVELCROSSING

ACROSS
1 Pilots grounded in the school holidays? (7,6)
10 Imprisoned abbot, dull, inactive type (7)
11 Police force, German, established by Adolf, political one primarily (7)
12 Russian vehicle, one in front (4)
13 Quick time - about one fifty (5)
14 Participant in Lord's match featured by Sky? (4)
17 Raise European tax that's accepted by Spain and the French (7)
18 Dose with powder, maybe - it's cold and damp (7)
19 Board accepting enrolled nurse is believable (7)
22 Son ran off quaking, being kind of yellow (7)
24 Take occupational therapist a duty roster (4)
25 Arthurian knight, one ahead of king in simple craft (5)
26 Look askance at own goal by the French (4)
29 Old boy left to occupy northern estate, most imposing (7)
30 Forestall Prince's bad temper (3-4)
31 Not so popular government restricts tacky strips - barrier to progress here? (5-8)

DOWN
2 Hug for English married couple (7)
3 Fellow associated with church, a pastor (4)
4 Exercise involved in moving green - it's in centre of table (7)
5 Twisted judge was first to accept $1000 (7)
6 Second primate to go around east end of church (4)
7 British general initially dismissed re-employed as a facilitator (7)
8 Chance upon President, one bedevilled by ill luck? (8-5)
9 Two-tone shoes end up on escorts, terribly non-U (2-11)
15 Decoration around ends of archway, perhaps (5)
16 Travel writer for Westminster paper (5)
20 Distinguished aristocrat accepts thanks (5)
21 Flexible way to trim sail, etc (7)
22 A politician in Soho knocked application on the head (7)
23 Government troops wasting time (7)
27 Nothing but water (4)
28 Old stable yard we found over in Mauritius (4)

Gentle opener for title rivals

MOTOR RACING

BY DERICK ALLSOP
at the Nürburgring

THEY BEGAN the jousting yesterday, a day before the first practice session, three days before the race, and they came out of it with little if anything between them. Much like the championship table.

Mika Hakkinen leads Michael Schumacher approaching the penultimate round of the season, the Luxembourg Grand Prix, because he has two second places to the German's one. They are level on 80 points and six victories.

If Hakkinen wins on Sunday and Schumacher fails to score, then the Finn will be world champion. Otherwise, they head for a last-race decider in Japan.

This off-track meeting was cordial, occasionally humorous, even knockabout, yet at the edges remained an unmistakable sharpness, and Schumacher made the most of any opportunity to try a psychological overtaking manoeuvre.

Schumacher, attired in the red of Ferrari, led the way to two seats, smiling broadly and evidently finishing his lunch. He turned to shake hands with Hakkinen, also dutifully dressed, in the silver-grey of McLaren-Mercedes.

But for the vulnerability of the silver-grey car and the silver-grey team, this duel might have been settled long ago. It certainly would have been had Schumacher not been the pre-eminent Formula One driver he is.

Mika Hakkinen (left) and Michael Schumacher are all smiles at the Nürburgring *AFP*

So now each had to convince their audience, and the other driver, he had the ability, nerve and back-up to take the decisive final stride.

Hakkinen, restricted to fourth place at Monza last time out by failing brakes, said: "We're still very competitive and have the fastest car. We have a strong engine – forget the last grand prix. [His team-mate, David Coulthard, was leading in Italy until the engine blew.] The tyres are good, the team have experience, they're motivated and all committed to win. They are definitely one of the best, if not the best team."

Schumacher said: "Our strongest point is the reliability of the car. We suffered for lack of speed at the beginning of the season but right now our package is close to the top. We have won and been competitive on most types of circuit, so I believe I have a 50-50 chance of winning the championship."

Hakkinen said: "We have been giving too many presents. If the reliability goes, it is very difficult for the driver to react. But you can't go into a race thinking something can go wrong. You have to race flat out to win."

Schumacher said: "The pressure comes more from outside, what people feel around us. I am also racing in my home country here. I'm never nervous in the car. I'm pretty confident. Any feeling in the stomach is usually before the race. I feel more nervous when I play football."

Hakkinen said: "I've been in Formula One a long time and there's always pressure. It is something you have to handle. In the car you are confident about your ability. If you allow pressure to get to you, you can make mistakes. I'd be wrong to say there is no pressure, but you have to make it positive pressure."

The weather was uncharacteristically clement here yesterday but rain is possible come Sunday and Schumacher is the acknowledged master in the wet. Hakkinen played down the implied threat of such a scenario, insisting that while he preferred a dry race he would have no problem confronting a wet one.

Schumacher said he was of like mind.

Hakkinen talked of a routine build-up to this race: training, relaxing, keeping a cool head. Schumacher was more extravagant, revealing he had organised a carting romp for his team. This image of fun and togetherness was doubtless meant to contrast with the perception of a beleaguered McLaren camp. Hakkinen is said to have been less than enthusiastic about testing last week, such was his dismay over the weaknesses exploited by Schumacher.

However, Hakkinen maintained he was concentrated on his contest with Schumacher. He found it exciting, and looked forward to more. And he would not require the unfair intervention of Coulthard to help his cause.

"Certainly I would never think of going to my team-mate to take the other driver off," he said.

Schumacher came in: "The only thing I would ask my team-mate [Eddie Irvine] is to stay away from my daughter when she gets to the age."

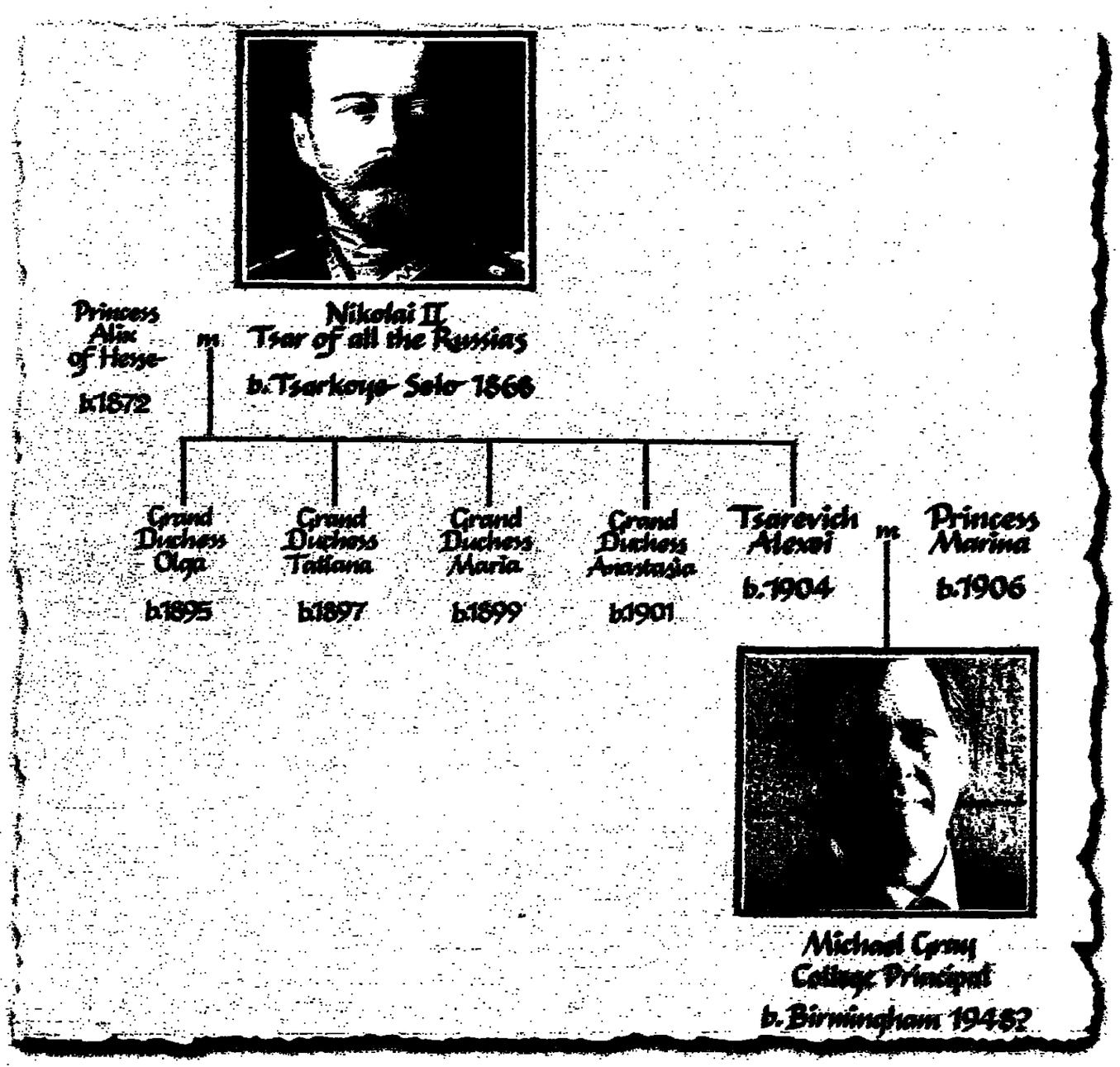
Hakkinen gave a glowing assessment of his adversary, citing his two championships and extreme pace. Asked about Schumacher's weaknesses he had only a tantalisingly brief response: "It would be uncomfortable for me to start explaining."

Schumacher had a gracious endorsement of Hakkinen's talents, which meant his satisfaction would be all the greater for beating him.

A beaming Hakkinen called for more, but the encore was less sugary: "This is the first time he has been fighting for the championship. We'll see how he performs. It is a new situation for him."

©Published by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370. Friday 25 September 1998 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office Back issues available

FRIDAY REVIEW



The Great Pretenders

BY ANN TRENEMAN

The true heir of the Romanovs has surfaced in Co Antrim. The King of Scotland is living in a bedsit and speaks with a Belgian accent. The two men have not met, but both believe they were born to rule

The tsar of Russia was not what I had expected. For starters, he has an Irish accent *and is wearing a blue* blazer with gold buttons. By profession, he is a college principal from Co Antrim. By blood, however, he believes himself to be Russian and royal. And not only by blood but also by bones. Skull bones, to be exact. He taps a temple. "It is now a scientific fact that my skull matches the skulls of the tsarina and three of the grand duchesses in the grave in Yekaterinburg. The Russian scientists have carried out tests. There was only a one-and-a-half chance in 100 that that could have happened by chance."

I look at the skull again. It is covered in sensible brown hair. I take a deep breath. The interview is taking place in the Tsar's Room at the Langham Hilton in central London. "How clever of you to arrange this here," says the tsar. But I am not that clever and I have no idea how it happened. We were supposed to meet in the Polo Lounge. And just when things seem to be getting too strange – I keep expecting someone to jump out of the panelling with a sign that says JOKE! – the waiter tells us that the room is named after Tsar Alexander III. I almost tell him that that the man with the fine skull and the blue blazer is the very man's great-grandson. But I don't, because I don't want to look like a loony.

This is not a new feeling. Earlier in the week I had met the man who would be the King of Scotland. He had a French accent and was wearing pressed chinos. He lives in a bedsit in Edinburgh, but grew up in a castle in Belgium and says he is the head of the royal house of Stewart (he doesn't like the other spelling). He referred to himself as HRH quite a bit and, as we sat, I could actually see the women at the next table rubber-necking. I couldn't blame them because HRH was saying some wonderful things. For instance, when I asked about his bedsit, he responded with gusto. "There's nothing wrong with my flat. They may want a castle but they have never lived in a castle. Let me tell you about castles. They are draughty, cold, expensive. If you want a cup of tea from the kitchen, it is cold by the time you get it. Forget it!"

The tsar and the king do not know each other but they have a lot in common. Both are pretenders, of a sort, to long-dead thrones. Both absolutely believe themselves to be royal and both have written huge books to prove their cases.

HRH has written *The Forgotten Monarchy of Scotland*. In Edinburgh, he took me across to Waterstone's so I could buy a copy and inscribed it with the words "Let Truth Prevail". He thinks Scotland should have a constitutional monarchy and that perhaps such a thing might be in place by the year 2008. He believes he is the heir by virtue of Bonnie Prince Charlie's secret marriage. The idea that the Stuart line died out is a product of Victorian and Georgian propaganda. I asked him how long he has believed this. He looked at me rather sadly. "It's not a question of thinking that you are. It's the fact that I was brought up as such. That is vastly different."

The tsar, on the other hand, has only just discovered his royal links. His book, *Blood Relative*, was launched yesterday at a press conference amid the splendour of white gladioli and plasterwork at the Foreign Press Association. The editorial director of Gollancz introduced the book by saying that in his 30-year career he had never published anything so fascinating. A TV documentary crew was on hand, as were the nation's press. The editorial director warned us *that it is a complicated* story. This is not true – it is an extremely and impossibly complicated story.

Even the tsar's name is a problem, in that he doesn't seem to know exactly what it is. Now I had been through a bit of this earlier in the week with the king who bridled at the idea, spread by the ignorant press, that his real name was Roger. His name was Prince Michael of Albany, he said. I asked to see his cheque book. He produced it and the name on his cheques is indeed HRH Prince Michael James Alexander Stewart of Albany. And if the Scots chose him as their king? Alexander IV, he said.

The tsar turns out to have at least three names. He was born and brought up William Lloyd Lavery – his wife and friends call him Lloyd. He wrote the book under the name Michael Gray, which he plucked out of a hat. *But now* he wants to claim his true identity. "I should change my name. My birth certificate is forged, anyway," he says. His last name will be Romanov. And the first name? "Michael," he says. "Michael Romanov. I think that's actually what it really is anyway."

Given the circumstances, it seemed wise to avoid calling him any name at all. His story is extraordinary and all the more so because his previous life was invented for the word humdrum. He was brought up an only child just outside the village of Waringstown in Northern Ireland. He did a degree in history, got married, had two children and became a college principal. Then, on 27 April 1993, he had lunch with a local museum curator. "We went back to my office for coffee and my agenda was to get finished as quickly as possible," he says. "He started up out of the blue about this mysterious Russian prince who lived during the last war at a large country house a few miles away. He also mentioned that this prince was a haemophiliac. Obviously I couldn't miss that allusion."

For two years, he pieced bits of the tale together. Eventually, he became convinced that the prince was really Alexei Romanov, the only son of the last tsar. Nicholas II and his wife and children had been murdered by Bolshevik guards 80 years ago, but Alexei's body had never been found. Over the years, mystery and myth have intertwined into a thousand theories and now another one was forming. This was that Alexei was flown down to the Caucasus and given a new identity as Nikolai Chebotarev. In 1918 he escaped by ship to the West, settling finally in the British Isles. He had a love affair with Princess Marina, the widow of the Duke of Kent and mother of the present Duke, and they had a son in 1947 or 1948. Nikolai Chebotarev lived in Paris, Ireland and England and worked as a private secretary and UN diplomat. He died in 1987 and is buried in Holt in Norfolk.

It seemed necessary to get back to the man in front of me. So when did it get personal? When did he link Alexei to himself? *It is, he says, complicated. In 1995, three* things occurred. The first is that he lost his job. The reason for this seems to involve a plot of some kind to get him to stop researching the book. If true, then it backfired because now he had much more time. He also had the means, because both his parents died at around the same time. He had long suspected he had been adopted and then, while clearing out their house, he found some photographs that directly linked him as a baby with the Tsarevich.

"This seemed to be a bridge between those two stories that I had treated separately until then. It had been suggested to me, back in 1993, that my son looked very much like the Tsarevich. But I wasn't going to indulge in any flights of fancy about any of that. There were other indications. I was told that I had his mannerisms. But I tried to be rational. It wasn't easy. None of it has been easy, to be honest," he said.

Nor for us, I think. There we were, happy in the knowledge that we would never know what happened to Alexei and that the only thing that is true about Romanov stories is that they are all not true. What, I asked him, makes this any different? The photographs, he says. When he found who was in them, he felt electrified.

"There was something inside of me that recognised what was happening. It's very hard to explain. It's one of those experiential things. You know what I mean. It's difficult to put into words. You know the way you have a moment of *Gestalt*, a moment when something becomes very clear, not just intellectually, but in a feeling sense too. You realise that this really is the case."

Yes, I say, I know the feeling. Like when you realise that the man who would be tsar might, in fact, really be the tsar. But it still doesn't make it any easier to explain to others. If I were to go round the Tsar's Room and tell people that the man in the blazer would be the tsar himself, they would all laugh. How would that make him feel? "I suppose I am not used to people doubting my word. I'm a straightforward sort of person. I don't have any hidden corners in me. To be honest there are several things to say. I think the most important is that I am not claiming to be the tsar. I am claiming to be the son of Alexei Romanov. That's it. It is a coincidence that Alexei Romanov is also the son of Nicholas II."

But isn't that splitting hairs? "Not really, because there is no throne of Russia. The Russian people have a democracy. That's a good thing. The people of Russia do not need outsiders telling them what to do."

He does not know what the future might bring. Will he go to Russia? He might, *but not as anything royal. It occurs that he* is trying to be a non-royal royal. This is not easy and he might get some tips on this from the man who would be King of Scotland, Prince Michael of Albany. He is a royal, but of the people, and is excoriating about the Establishment (many of whom *throw scorn on his claims): "I don't care* what they say about me. I don't give a hoot. Why should I? I wasn't born to look after these people. I was born to look after a nation of five-and-a-half million people, not the two per cent who don't give a damn about the people in any case."

Now there is a man who knows his cause, but then again he's had a lot more time than Michael Romanov to figure out how to be, yes, a Great Pretender. Where are the Platters when you need them?

INSIDE

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LAW

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

One Nation 5: old and new in the former East Germany, where modern, post-unification houses line the cobbled streets of Wittenburg *Brian Harris*

Euro-hypocrites

Sir: The alarm made by Eurosceptics about the threatened non-appearance of the Queen's head on euro banknotes really does take hypocrisy to new levels ("Off with her head, says Europe", 23 September).

I too believe that our national symbols should remain on the euro note if and when Britain joins the single currency and I am confident that the British government will be able to negotiate this.

But the decision was taken two weeks ago by the governing body of the European Central Bank, a committee that Britain is not represented on and one that Tory Eurosceptics do not wish us to join.

If we followed William Hague's advice and committed ourselves to staying out of the single currency for at least 10 years, Britain would have no hope of influencing these decisions.

The Conservative Eurosceptics decline to advocate a role for Britain in Europe's development, then pretend to be shocked when Europe takes decisions without us.

Such political tactics are misleading in the extreme, and have nothing whatever to do with Britain's economic self-interest.
BILL RAMMELL MP
Chair, Labour Movement for Europe
House of Commons

Sir: I'm not exactly the most pro-Euro of people (former Referendum Party candidate, current member of Business for Sterling) and yet I am convinced that even I could do a better job of selling the EU to the people of Europe than whoever is in charge at the moment.

If people are so clearly attached to the trivial but symbolic fig-leaves of their historic national identities (the colour of their passports, the monarch's heads on their banknotes, the hallmarks used by their silversmiths, the curvature of their bananas), why not just leave well alone and get on with the important "big" stuff of European Union instead? And when the fate of the euro in more than one member state depends on the outcome of a referendum, it seems more than a bit silly to go out of your way to infuriate the general public when you really don't need to.

I understand that because of widespread cheating they are having to rerun the EU *fonctionnaire* exams, to pick the next generation of top bureaucrats; do you think it would be too late for me to put my name down?
WARWICK CAIRNS
Windsor, Berkshire

Sir: Godfrey Bloom (letter, 22 September) does not appear to understand the nature of monetary union.

He is quite correct to state that pegging one currency to another will eventually fail; the Exchange Rate Mechanism was bound to fail. However, no one has ever speculated on the Scottish or Welsh pound against the English pound, any more than they have speculated on the New York dollar against the Californian dollar.

It must be admitted that there is a cost to monetary union. Banks will lose the huge sums of money which they receive at present for converting funds from one currency to another. This will probably cost jobs. Does anyone know if banks contribute to Tory party funds?
JOHN PARKIN
Lancaster

Sir: As a retailer, I am very much in favour of an easily recognisable note. Imagine having a variety of euro notes bearing different national emblems, and not being sure whether the note offered to you is legal tender or a fraud, because you have not seen that one before.

As usual, the thing has been blown up out of all proportion and seen as another attack by the evil Europeans on British nationality, instead of a perfectly sensible idea to avoid problems with acceptance of the currency.
L JAGER
Moffat, Dumfries and Galloway

Sir: Perhaps the lack of any Tory MPs in Scotland has prevented Conservative Eurosceptics being told that the Queen's head does not appear on any of the banknotes issued by Scottish banks.
DAVID MILLS
London SW11

Labour's list

Sir: Your report on Labour's purge of internal party critics among MEPs ("Labour NEC de-selects 11 of its MEPs", 23 September) quotes Tom Sawyer as saying that the Party's lists of candidates reflect the "real Britain".

This is certainly not true of the East Midlands. My own constituency, which covers the coalfield in North Nottinghamshire and North-eastern Derbyshire, nominated two people. But both of these have been rejected. Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson have decided that no one in the coalfield can be relied upon to figure in their lists, so that electors in our huge area have no one to vote for.

Of course, the new system abolished constituencies, so New Labour thinks it does not matter if coalfield people are given a choice of three people from Leicester, one from Northamptonshire and one from South Derbyshire. Not content with displacing party members from the selection of candidates, the next stage for New Labour is to displace the role of the electorate. Voters hardly get a look in under the new system of closed lists. They cannot put their cross against any of the names. Instead they can only choose between party labels. Peter Mandelson and his nominees have already done the rest. They have already decided who the MEPs will be. Those at the top of these lists are certain to be elected.

In addition to choosing those who will go to the European Parliament, New Labour has ensured that they will always obey orders. Accountability to the electorate has gone. In its place, those who are chosen will answer, above all, to the party bosses who picked them. This is a bad day for democracy in Britain.
KEN COATES MEP
(Nottinghamshire North & Chesterfield, Lab)
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

Revive local theatre

Sir: Both the West End theatre managements and Sir Ian McKellen are right about the state of our theatre ("Has London theatre reached the stage where it can't find a decent audience?" 24 September). There are almost no reps where young actors can get contracted work for between six and 24 months playing a succession of roles, which was the way actors used to perfect their trade. Yet London's theatre scene is very profitable because of the vast increase in the pool of potential theatre-goers that modern transport has made possible, from the provinces and overseas.

But the long runs that have made Lord Lloyd-Webber's and Sir Cameron Mackintosh's fortunes have had debilitating consequences – on the star system, on actors' careers, on the popular appetite for new plays, on the possible audiences in the provinces for West End material, on touring theatre, on boulevard plays.

British provincial theatres can no longer employ permanent companies of actors performing a rep of plays in short runs. The rep movement is dead. In Germany, by contrast, well over 100 companies of actors with pensions work in locally-funded repertory theatres.

Here we need a determined effort to increase public funding of local theatres. Of course actors will not take extended contracts at the Equity minimum wage of £200 per week – when a few small roles on television will be far more financially rewarding. But we need, as in Germany, to pay proper wages and gradually restore the habit of local theatre-going in the provinces, and even in the London suburbs.

To re-establish a virtuous triangle of local audiences buying tickets, local sponsors and donors supporting provincial companies, and local council-tax payers funding such institutions will not be easy. Yet that is what the live performing arts require.
TOM SUTCLIFFE
London SW16

Unethical cut

Sir: Dr A Majid Katme of Islamic Concern is asking the Department of Health to perform Muslim religious markings on children's bodies. (letter, 23 September).

To inflict non-therapeutic circumcision on a normal, unconsenting child is unacceptable. The practice infringes a child's right to physical integrity guaranteed under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The convention states that infringement of this right cannot be justified on grounds of religion, culture or tradition.

Doctors have an ethical duty to refuse to perform circumcisions on children except where there is a genuine therapeutic need. It is extremely rare for there to be any genuine indication for the procedure.
JOHN D DALTON
Frizington, Cumbria

Sir: The forced body modification of healthy unconsenting minors is unethical, whatever the reason. Doctors who genitally mutilate their patients for no therapeutic reason, contravene the axiom *primum non nocere* – "First, do no harm". The NHS Executive stated in 1995 that, "male circumcision on religious or social grounds is not an appropriate NHS service".
Dr JANET MENAGE
Rugby, Warwickshire

Cost of conscience

Sir: So Francis Bown has finally left the Church of England, denouncing it as "spiritually, morally and intellectually bankrupt" ("Vicar quits over women priests", 22 September). Fortunately for Mr Bown and others who have taken the route which he is now following, it is not also financially bankrupt, but will continue to pay out a tidy sum to those who have resigned from Anglican ministry because of the ordination of women.

It seems that the much-vaunted "cost of conscience" is being left for others to pay, notably parishioners who have stayed faithful to the Church of England. If these highly vocal opponents of the ordination of women had any integrity they would not wish to receive a penny in stipends, compensation, or pensions, from an institution which they hold in such contempt.
The Rev JOHN WHITE
Plymouth

Curb MI5

Sir: Andreas Whittham Smith overlooks a number of key issues about the destiny of MI5's files on UK citizens ("Should we keep our secrets?" 24 September.)

The first oversight is the accuracy of the information. For example, when the MI5 officer Michael Smith was prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act for passing on confidential data, MI5 admitted that he had been cleared to work for the agency because details of his Communist sympathies had been placed on the file of another Michael Smith.

The Data Protection Registrar has persistently stated that MI5 – together with MI6 and GCHQ – should register under the Data Protection Act 1984. This would require that all data is "collected fairly and lawfully, is accurate and kept up to date, and only used for the purpose for which it was gathered". But MI5 has refused to comply.

There is considerable evidence that MI5 acted to undermine a democratically elected Labour government in the 1970s. Political figures of all the main parties were subject to MI5-inspired dirty tricks campaigns.

The first move should be to establish an independent commission to investigate the accuracy and legality of the data, and any complicity on the part of MI5 officers.

If there had been some 290,000 subversives, wouldn't there have been some obvious evidence of this vast revolutionary army in recent decades?
DAVID NORTHMORE
London N8

Smacking children

Sir: So William Hague thinks that parents can be left to make their own decisions about how they treat their children in the privacy of their homes, without interference from the "nanny" state ("Beating of children to be outlawed", 24 September). Thank God the 25,000 children placed on child protection registers each year won't have to rely on his party for the foreseeable future to provide the resources they need to avoid injury and even death at the hands of those who are supposed to care for them. Come back Michael Portillo and "caring Conservatism", all is forgiven.
BEN WHITNEY
Stafford

Sir: Smacking children in anger or frustration is something we do because they can be infuriating – and embarrassing beyond the capacity of any adult, because we are responsible for them and because they are smaller than us – understandable on the Clinton scale of human frailty, but assault nonetheless. Systematic corporal punishment in cold blood is a sinister practice.
JON GRAY
Bath

Sir: If the Government, after a recent ruling by the European Court of Human Rights, is to consider introducing legislation to make it illegal for parents to smack their children, might they also consider introducing legislation to make it illegal for children to torment their parents?
F J MAGUIRE
London SW19

Off with her head!

Sir: By a curious coincidence next year sees the anniversaries of two events associated with the proudest moment in this island's history. The Queen, we learn, is to mark the 350th anniversary of the execution of the nightie-wearing Charles I with an exhibition at her Royal Gallery next January. When, pray, may we learn what plans this "People's Government" has to mark the 400th anniversary of the birth (25 April 1599) of this country's greatest Parliamentarian? Certainly Cromwell wouldn't have contented himself with merely removing the monarch's head from the currency.
MARK PAPPENHEIM
Lewes, East Sussex

IN BRIEF

Sir: Dr Zuck (letter, 24 September) believes that five may be a little old for citizenship lessons. He cites the example of his three-year-old grandchild, who knew about Mrs Thatcher's milk-snatching tendencies.

I could not agree more. At the same age I had been taught that if my brother and I were given 20p each, and my brother then spent his 20p on sweets, the Labour Party would take 10p of my money and give it to my profligate brother.
SEBASTIAN BOYD
London SW1

Sir: Your article on food prices and the way powerful supermarkets justify high prices (24 September) must have made many in Cornwall very angry.

Many small farmers and fisherman here receive a pittance for their produce. Recently one farmer who had received 8.5p per cauliflower saw one on sale for 85p in the local supermarket. When he queried it he was told that if they asked any less the customer would not believe it was good quality.
The Rev HELEN POOLE
St Levan, Cornwall

Sir: The move by the Prime Minister to surrender the power of appointing members of the House of Lords (report, 23 September) is most commendable.

However, it should not be considered as bringing Britain into the new millennium as a mature liberal democracy. So long as the established Church of England retains its 26 representatives on the red benches this can never be the case. I hope to see greater reform in future – either direct election of senators by single transferable vote (as in most Commonwealth countries) or the appointment of representatives of the various devolved assemblies (as in Germany).
ANDREW STEVENS
Middlesbrough

George Bernard Shaw and the best-ever prostitute joke

MILES KINGTON

'Chase me, girls, for I am full of rhubarb!' Now, what does that mean?

VERY UNUSUAL JOBS INDEED

No 41 in the series:
A Man Who Trains Stand-Up Comedians

"I was looking at a Victorian book of music hall jokes the other day," says Jim Trott, "and it was very interesting. It wasn't very funny, but it was very interesting. One of the jokes read simply, 'Chase me, girls, for I am full of rhubarb!' Now, what does that mean?"

I don't know. Did rhubarb have a special meaning in Victorian days?

"I've no idea," says Jim Trott. "But I tell you this. It must have got a laugh at the time or they wouldn't put it in. The thing is, not only do all tag-lines and catch-phrases go out of date, they also only work when they're done by the man who's right for them. We don't know who the man was who did the rhubarb joke, so we don't laugh, because we can't hear his tone of voice."

So, when comedians come to you for training, do you suggest material that's right for their voice?

"Something like that. I mean, I couldn't give a Tim Vine joke to Ben Elton, could I? Or vice versa."

What's a Tim Vine joke?

"Basically it's a weak pun, done so charmingly that you laugh."

Can you give us an example?

"Sure. I thought of one this morning. Man gives a prostitute a twenty pound note. She gives him a fiver back. Sex change..."

What? Oh... sex change... I see.

"Yeah, well, you didn't laugh because I wasn't as winning as Tim Vine. But if you had Ben Elton doing a joke about prostitutes, he'd never do anything like that in a million years. In fact, he wouldn't *do* jokes about prostitutes, because he's on the side of the victim. So he'd go a bit like this..."

Jim Trott glares at me balefully, then sneers slightly. He *is* Ben Elton, suddenly.

"People talk about the prostitution problem, ladies 'n' gentlemen," he intones. "But the prostitution problem isn't prostitutes. It's men! It's men's base demands that make girls provide the services. Get rid of men and I think you'll find the prostitution problem has gone. Same with going out at night. A woman isn't safe out at night, they say. Can't let a woman go out in the city for fear of being attacked. Attacked by another woman? Pestered by a kerb-crawling woman driver? I think not, ladies 'n' gentlemen. Attacked by a man. Solution – keep *men* in at night and let women roam free..."

Jim Trott reverts to normal.

"See what I mean? That's a Ben Elton kind of approach. Same subject matter. Completely different approach. All you have to do is think yourself into someone's identity, and you can do the right material."

All right – how would someone like – well, like Eddie Izzard approach prostitution, then?

"Eddie Izzard?" says Jim Trott. "Cross-dressing and all that? Let's think..."

He thinks for a moment. Then, letting his features go soft, he says: "Now, normally I don't go through a red light area, because the glow plays havoc with my make-up, but I wandered into one the other day and this fabulous girl said to me, 'Anything I can do for you, darling,' and I said, 'Yes, *do* let me have the name of your dress-maker...' Of course, costume is very important if you're a street-walker, so I'm always surprised that the customers don't dress up too. They used to in the old days. There was even a shoe named after the sport: a brothel-creeper. Now, why did people have special *shoes* to go looking for prostitutes? Did they say to themselves: 'Mmm, I think I'll go to a brothel tonight – oh, no I can't! My shoes are at the menders!' "

Jim Trott shakes his head.

"Haven't quite got the hang of Izzard yet. Tell you what, though..."

What?

"Best joke about prostitution ever done was by Bernard Shaw. He was at a party once and he told this woman that everyone would agree to do anything for money, if the price was high enough. 'Surely not, she said.' 'Oh yes,' he said. 'Well, I wouldn't,' she said. 'Oh yes you would,' he said. 'For instance,' he said, 'would you sleep with me for... for a million pounds?' 'Well,' she said, 'maybe for a million – I would, yes.' 'Would you do it for ten shillings?' said Bernard Shaw. 'Certainly not!' said the woman 'What do you take me for? A prostitute?' 'We've established that already,' said Bernard Shaw. 'We're just trying to fix your price now!' "

And Jim Trott goes off into roars of laughter.

"That Bernard Shaw," he said. "I could have got him the Perrier Prize if I had had him as a pupil, especially him being Irish and everything..."

Our next Unusual Job: A man who teaches parrots to stop saying inappropriate words.

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1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
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Independence, maybe, but the SNP must reform

ALEXANDER ELLIOT Anderson Salmond is an opportunist schemer, a slick media performer and a slippery debater. In short, a brilliant politician. He has consistently trounced the Labour Party throughout his eight years as leader of the Scottish National Party.

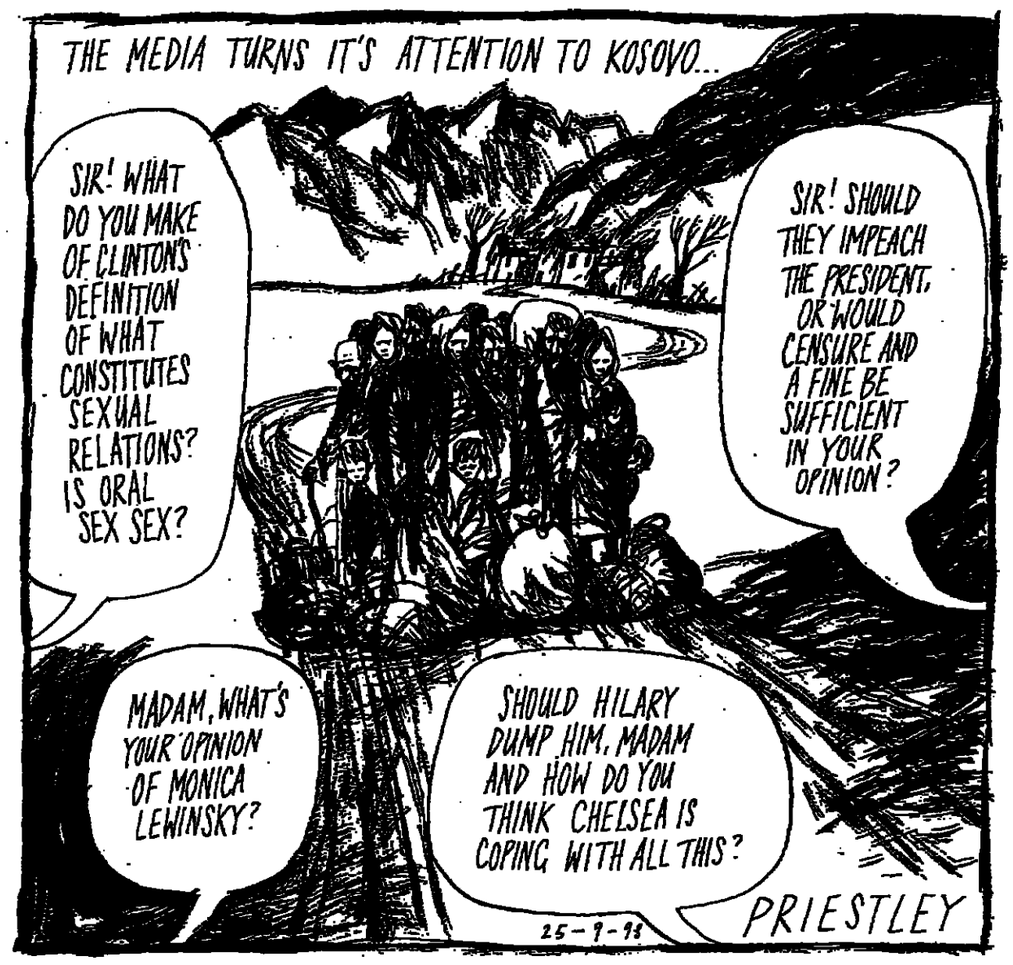
Indeed, it could be argued that for most of its 18 years in opposition, the Labour Party's Scottish policy has been driven by fear of the Nationalists. Many Labour people wrongly assumed that Mr Salmond would cease to run rings round them once they got into government. Support for the SNP is not simply anti-Conservatism "with Scottish characteristics", but a deep-seated expression of national identity. New Labour's Englishness is as much a foil for the SNP as was Thatcherism.

Mr Salmond has been much helped by Tony Blair's metropolitan blunders. On one of his pre-election forays into Scotland, for example, he seemed unsure as to what was the Claim of Right. (It was a declaration, signed by most Labour MPs, including John Smith, asserting the right of the Scottish people to choose their form of government.) On another, he described Scottish political journalists as "unreconstructed"; then he compared the Edinburgh parliament to a local authority.

That does not mean, however, that the Scottish people lend their wholehearted support to every bullet point in the SNP programme. Far from it. Mr Salmond's manifesto last year promised 100,000 new jobs, 20,000 new affordable homes, 700 more teachers, higher pensions and child benefit, and a non-nuclear defence policy. Public spending would have gone up by billions, paid for by higher taxes on annual incomes over £26,500, defence cuts and – the largest slice – by reclaiming the hotly-disputed surplus allegedly paid into the United Kingdom Treasury from Scotland's oil.

These are the policies of a toy-town opposition, but Mr Salmond's great skill has been to divert attention from the small print – giving the impression that he leads some kind of west European social-democratic party. Sometimes the veil of this pretence is exceedingly thin, as with yesterday's conference decision to dodge the tax issue. More often, it is Mandelsonian in its cleverness. "Independence within Europe" was a good slogan because it pointed to the reality that the EU would guarantee freedom of movement and an open market. And this summer, Mr Salmond leaked the fact that he was about to meet Prince Charles to discuss the future of the monarchy in an independent Scotland. This was accompanied by a single-handed change to the SNP's hitherto republican policy, saying the party would campaign to keep the Queen as head of state in a referendum on her status. Highly reassuring to apolitical, conservative, weak Nationalist voters. And when such voters are faced with the choice between the hated Tories, the corrupt machine-politics of Scottish Labour, and the shiny emotional appeal of the SNP, Mr Salmond is well placed.

It is the emotional appeal of independence which has meant that the promise of devolution has not halted the SNP advance. The Conservative argument was right in its analysis – devolution is a slippery slope – but wrong in its conclusion. The slippery slope is a good thing. Once on it, the Scottish people can decide whether to slide the whole way, or at which point to settle with a peculiarly British form of federalism. The Scots have much to gain from independence – although not that Exchequer "surplus" – and nothing to fear, apart from the SNP's unreformed early-Eighties socialism. If Mr Salmond wants to lead an independent Scotland, as opposed to driving Scotland out of the UK under Labour and Lib-Dem leadership, he needs urgently to reform his party. Until then, independence might be a noble, even a just, cause, but the SNP will be a flawed instrument for achieving it.



South Africa takes on harsh realities

FOR ALL the problems it has encountered, South Africa is probably right to have sent troops into the tiny enclave of Lesotho to quell an army rebellion there. It was, after all, an attempt to overthrow a democratically elected government. To have stood aside while a properly constituted civilian government was overturned by force would have shamed Pretoria.

But the troops were few and inexperienced. Instead of saviours, they have been greeted as agents of old-fashioned South African imperialism, the worse for being black. This is a tragedy, not just for the South African government, but for President Mandela personally. Instead of bestriding the stage of the UN in New York this week, he has had to explain events over which he has little control. For a man who had promised so much, not just to his own country but the whole continent, that is no easy lesson.

In the Congo, South Africa wisely avoided direct military involvement. In Lesotho, it probably had no choice. But if you are going to commit yourself to military action, you have to know what your objectives are, and what are the rules of engagement. In this case, the army seem to have been told neither. After the death of eight soldiers, the army seems to have brought some measure of calm to the situation. But South Africa's invasion force is likely to be stuck keeping down a hostile population for months, if not years.

What can Pretoria do now? In truth, it can do little but make its security clampdown as effective as possible, re-establish relations with the civilian population, and get the rebels and the government to hold talks as quickly as possible. Not very glorious, maybe. But that is what you get when the popular demand for intervention comes across the hard realities of the military situation on the ground.

A safe bet

THE OFFICIAL middle-class reading list, known as the Booker Prize shortlist, was published yesterday, and four things can be predicted. One: the wrong book will win, in many people's opinion. Two: there will be a row, using one of these phrases – middle brow or dumbing down. Three: some judges will write tedious articles in high-brow newspapers about how difficult it was, and how catty the judges were. Four: most people with degrees will buy a shortlisted book, but will not get round to reading it. A great time will be had by all. Long may it continue.

Mr Ashdown brings the salty air of realism to Brighton

DONALD MACINTYRE

Not even the shimmering landscape of the 'liberal century' will persuade the electors to back PR

NOT EVEN a virtuoso turn by a leader so macho that his latest trick is opening beer bottles with his teeth could dispel the sense that the Liberal Democrats are a party marking time on their long, long yomp to what its leader hopes is a share of real power. Paddy Ashdown remains a radical force in British politics. He says necessary things which no minister, ground down by the intimidating burdens of office, would dare to say now: that Britain urgently needs a Freedom of Information Act which bites; that a devolving administration worthy of the name should be trusting local councils to spend the money they can raise; that parliament, ministeriat, and civil service are bigger than they need be and were "when we governed half the world, 60 years ago".

He has a clear line on the euro – that Britain should jump into it before it is pushed. He has innovative ideas about improving government through annual performance contracts. He is tougher on environmental taxes than a government wary of offending the polluters thinks it can afford to be. All this and more Ashdown covered in an effective, well crafted speech to the faithful in Brighton yesterday.

But none of it matters even slightly unless Ashdown can bring his strategy to the successful conclusion that is now so tantalisingly in sight. This was, indeed, one of his own subtexts yesterday. This is a party waiting, not so much for Lord Jenkins' report on electoral reform, as for Tony Blair's response to it. The headline of Ashdown's speech, therefore, was in his challenge to Blair to define himself as a pluralist rather than as a control freak by endorsing electoral reform.

But he used language to his own party which, by the standards of his previous coded conference speeches, was blunter. In doing so he reflected a new realism which, in spite of the glee and relative frequency with which the conference overturned the leadership this week, has at last begun to pervade the party, at least over electoral reform.

Last year the conference passed, by acclaim and with the unhesitant dogmatism of flat-earthers, a motion insisting that any change to the electoral system had to bring in multi-member constituencies elected by Single Transferable Vote, as in Ireland. This year they are ready to take anything Lord Jenkins is likely to offer them. Yesterday the representatives in the hall barely squirmed when Ashdown reminded them of as much – reminded them that winning the public's consent to change depended not on offering a system which was "mathematically perfect", but one which the public wanted.

Anywhere else this would have been a banal truism. To a Liberal Democrat audience it is a timely warning. There are still many in the party, including some of its MPs, who fondly imagine that the nation will be persuaded to vote for a new electoral system simply because it will increase the number of Liberal Democrat MPs. It never occurs to such people that a less self-serving case might have to be made, or that the voters have to be persuaded that they will get more power from their quinquennial act in the ballot box if the system is changed.

Ashdown was also more forthright than in the past about what this means for the party and its relations with New Labour. The more introverted tendency among Liberal Democrats also imagine, even as they criticise Blair for being authoritarian, that the Prime Minister will suddenly have an onset of pluralism so overwhelming that he will back a change in the voting system which will treble their representation without having any earnest hope of co-operation in return.

Ashdown delighted the hall by eloquently attacking Labour for its rotten boroughs in local government, for its perceived timidity about EMU, for the nannyish tendencies of some of its ministers. But he stressed with equal eloquence how many of his own party's cherished goals had been achieved by co-operation with the Government. This was true even on the sole issue where the Liberal Democrats do have some leverage; the Scottish parliamentary elections next year, which could just leave the party holding the balance of power between the SNP and Labour. On the one hand, he urged Labour to give the Scottish party more freedom – perhaps, though he did not say so, to clean up Scottish councils by allowing them to be elected by PR. On the other, he pledged to fight separatism – which is hardly compatible with forming a coalition with the SNP.

But not even the shimmering landscape of the "liberal century", as Ashdown put it, will be enough to persuade the electors to back PR. Not only Conservatives will be put off by a change in the voting system which merely looks like a means of entrenching Lib-Labber for as far as the eye can see. Which is one reason why instead of the "AV-plus" system which adds a proportional top-up to constituency MPs elected on a preferential system, a First Past the Post-plus system – the same as that to be used in Scotland – looks superficially attractive. Because it would not also entrench tactical voting between Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters, it would be harder for the Tories to oppose. None of the options have yet closed even on the Jenkins committee itself; but it would be surprising if Lord Jenkins did not include in his reform of the system a means of eliminating the absurdity that many MPs are elected with less than 50 per cent of the votes in their constituency and some with less than 30 per cent. In other words, AV-plus.

For despite the conventional wisdom that a referendum will be very hard to win, that is not what the unpublished qualitative and quantitative research available to the parties suggests. So far, support for a system which would give both a more proportional outcome, and which maximises voter choice by allowing first and second preferences, is looking remarkably robust. Some tentative findings, remarkably, suggest a majority in favour even if the Prime Minister opposed it – provided, of course, that the system was fully and persuasively explained.

But then that is not the main reason for the deep uncertainty still clouding the issue. For the main problem remains the willingness of Labour MPs, some of their supporters in the Cabinet, and the unions which sponsor MPs, to forsake short-term strength for long-term hegemony.

All of this will be evident next week in Blackpool when the Labour Party conference debates an emergency motion in favour of the status quo. Those around Ashdown continue to claim that the Prime Minister will not break the manifesto commitment – which, though it does not do so explicitly, they regard as applying to this parliament – to hold the referendum before the next election, but they cannot be sure.

Blair likes Ashdown; he wants to keep him as an ally; at the same time, he is under pressure to delay a referendum until after the next election. At the moment the talk of leadership rivals to Ashdown is woefully premature. He remains, and will do so for some time, the one Liberal Democrat with the necessary public profile to lead his party successfully. Next year, if the prospects of PR are looking more distant, it could all start to look very different.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We only change the times to please Scotland. I've nothing against Scotland, but now it has its own parliament it can decide what is best for it."
Lord Archer, politician and author

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Instead of this absurd division into sexes they ought to class people as static and dynamic."
Evelyn Waugh, British author

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

South African comment on the unrest in Lesotho

WHATEVER JUSTIFICATION there might have been for the South African-led military intervention in Lesotho, it has become obvious that the exercise was fraught with serious misjudgements and inept intelligence. It surely required no great feat of military judgement to have realised at the outset that although the core of the problem might have been a group of mutinous rebels in the Lesotho Defence Force, the situation had become infused by civilian disorder. The government faces a crisis of legitimacy which military intervention can only exacerbate. It is easy to be wise after the event, but the failure to secure property, the inordinate time it is taking to stabilise the country, the obviously widespread antagonism to the SADC's action, the admission by the SANDF that it miscalculated resistance, all point to the need for a comprehensive inquiry into the planning and execution of this military exercise.
Cape Argus

Yesterday's intervention, which appears not to have been sanctioned by King Letsie III, is likely to swing popular opinion against South Africa. Until now, the Basotho have accepted South Africa's influence and economic support but have been determined to remain independent so as to keep their monarchy. With fighting still raging around Makoanyane, looting progressing and Maseru in flames, Buthelezi's recent promise of talks would seem optimistic.
Mail & Guardian

WE SURELY have no right to cross the border of a country to restore law and order on behalf of a government whose legitimacy is unclear. We messed it up. Instead of assisting democracy we have hampered it. The problem we face now will be how to extricate ourselves without doing more harm. One thing is for sure: we will do so without honour. Let it end sooner rather than later.
Daily Dispatch

SOUTH AFRICA has used gunboat diplomacy to try to end political unrest in Lesotho. Whether it will facilitate or hinder a political solution remains to be seen. A more resolute and even-handed political and diplomatic initiative would possibly have made the military option unnecessary.
WOZ (Internet)

PANDORA

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT peer Rupert Redesdale was on duty as an international supervisor during the recent Bosnian general election. The young Lord was acting as a polling official on the outskirts of Sarajevo. Unbeknown to Rupert, a stash of Molotov cocktails left over from the war had been found in a building neighbouring his polling station and reported to the local police. As this discovery reached higher authorities, the truth became shaken and stirred. Consequently, SFOR, the Nato-led stabilisation force turned up – helicopters and all – outside the polling station. They had word that 31 people had been massacred by a grenade thrown through the window and were poised for action.

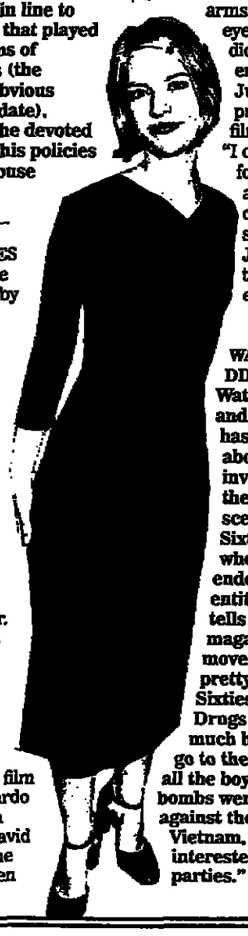
"It obviously wasn't the case," sighed Rupert to Pandora this week at the Lib Dem conference in Brighton. "I just wanted to get them out of the way so I could carry on and run the polling station." A noble Lord, indeed.

MEANWHILE IT seems that the Lib Dems are taking the election of London's mayor very seriously indeed. The rules for those wishing to stand for the party as candidates for the post warn that certain promotional items will be forbidden during the internal selection campaign. These items include tea-towels, baseball caps and – of all things – talking key rings. Surely, the Lib Dems have missed out on a great marketing opportunity here? Pandora would be first in line to buy a key ring that played out the opinions of Simon Hughes (the Party's most obvious mayoral candidate), particularly if he devoted some lyrics to his policies on rucksack abuse on the tube.

PANDORA NOTES with interest the petition signed by over 60 public figures from around the world in support of Bill Clinton. Archbishop Desmond Tutu is reported to be one of the petition, which is now being circulated by Jack Lang, the former French culture minister. The signatories include actors Gerald Depardieu, Vanessa Redgrave and Emma Thompson, and film directors Bernardo Bertolucci, Wim Wenders and David Puttnam. But the call has also been heeded by intellectuals Jacques Derrida and Henri-Bernard Levy. Perhaps the intervention of such *philosophes* marks the start of a new era for the cross-fertilisation of politics and culture. Not so much "Luvvies for Labour" as "Post-modernists for the presidency".

A PRIVATE view of "Destroy", Dennis Morris' collection of Sex Pistols photographs, was held at the Proud Gallery in London on Tuesday evening. Morris, who clearly had unrestricted access to the Pistols, talked to Pandora about life with the anarchic band. "You were always on the edge with them. I remember one time we were having a drink at John [Lydon]'s house and the door was bashed in by a gang of blokes with baseball bats." Who were these rude intruders? enquired Pandora. "People who were in favour of the royal family I suppose," Dennis replied. Obviously there was no time to ask questions.

IT IS very unlikely that Claire Danes (pictured), the American actress who starred in *Romeo + Juliet* and *Little Women*, will be going back to the Philippines in a hurry. After filming *Brokedown Palace* in Manila earlier this year, Danes told the latest edition of US movie magazine *Premiere*, the Philippine capital "smelled of cockroaches, with rats all over and no sewage system, and the people do not have anything - no arms, no legs, no eyes." Danes' candid opinions have enraged Jun Juban, one of the producers of the film and a Filipino. "I cannot apologise for Ms. Danes' acerbic tongue. I can only hope she chokes on it," Juban says. Is this a case of *cinema vérité*?



WACKY DIRECTOR John Waters (*Hairspray* and *Serial Mom*) has been talking about his involvement with the militant gay scene in the Sixties. Waters, whose next film is endearingly entitled *Pecker*, tells *Salon* magazine: "The gay movement was pretty square in the Sixties until drugs. Drugs made gay men much hipper. I used to go to the riots because all the boys with the bombs were so cute. I was against the war in Vietnam, but I was more interested in the parties."

Talking about a revolution

DAVID AARONOVITCH

If the Austin were still in existence, then its next model would certainly be the Viagra

ON TUESDAY 1,000 Parisian police manned roadblocks into the centre of town, and turned back private cars belonging to non-residents. Within hours the fog of petrol fumes had lifted in the Latin Quarter and you could hear the accordions on Montmartre. Gradually, emboldened, families with small children emerged, blinking, into the light. For many it was the first time they had been out *en famille* on the streets for many years. They smiled and laughed, stretched their atrophied limbs – and then they were mown down by mad roller-bladers and crazed cyclists in stretch Lycra.

Such radicalism is one half of the French personality. The conservative France is most apparent in its sentimental attachment to a countryside full of vicious and backward peasants, subsidised by the rest of us in Europe so that they can continue to persecute hunchbacks, grow substandard apples and collaborate with the Germans. There is presumably a French TV show called *Peasants From Hell*, featuring these *Jean de Florette* monsters.

But in the town and city, the natives have always had a disposition for big, revolutionary change. Had you been born in the Marais in 1785, and lived to the age of 80, you would have witnessed five full-blown revolutions with barricades, guns, cannon, firing squads and everything.

Nevertheless, Tuesday's ban, entitled *en ville sans ma voiture*, was an extraordinary piece of bravery. Paris, as we know, is no city for blind men – the pavements are reserved for sidewalk cafés and parked cars. So every Parisian has a *voiture*. A rather chic acquaintance of mine rented a bijou apartment on the Ile Saint something-or-other, within easy swanning distance of all the sights and sounds – and yet she still insisted on purchasing a weeny, Kate Moss-style motor in that autumn's colours.

To the French, cars are sexy. That archetypical Parisienne, Nicole, drives a little red, pert Renault, the name of which – Clio – sounds suspiciously like an assertion of female sexuality. (It is marketed currently "because size matters". If the Austin were still in existence, then its next model would certainly be the Viagra, and we can confidently anticipate millennial cars with titles like the Ford Orgasm and the Chrysler Climax.) No car, no cigar.

And yet, encouragingly, radicalism won out over even the most entrenched prejudices and desires. *En ville sans ma voiture* was a great success, and may well be repeated. And it makes one wonder if the same trick could not be pulled in other countries. In cautious Britain, for instance, we could try a subversive, back door approach, perhaps by declaring next March 1st as Take Your Daughter To Work (On Foot) Day. Or holding a series of dress rehearsals for the Queen Mother's funeral in central London.

But what about some place where the car is really killing them? Like LA. Let us try to imagine a Los Angeles with empty freeways and deserted parking lots. It would resemble a set from one of those fashionable post-Armageddon movies, in which the only living things would be mad post-industrial killer skateboarders - and, of course, Kevin Costner plus obligatory child in need of saving. With the help of counselling, people might even walk.

Nor does such radical thinking have to stop at motor cars; there are other forms of debilitating dependency that should be tackled. The Big Apple, for instance could declare an *en ville sans therapie* month in which New Yorkers were not permitted to contact their shrinks. What's that? I'm terribly sorry, I've just been told that there already is such a month, and it's called August.

Closer to home (in the home, actually), we could have weeks called *chez moi sans chagrin* in which you are not permitted to raise your voice at your spouse, nor to be sarcastic, and in which all family conflict is settled with the assistance of an Internet link with Mr Straw's new Family Institute. Radical, but no more radical than banning cars from Paris.

And finally, I am endebted to the TV show, *Seinfeld* for the ultimate challenge. In one of its most famous editions, the US sitcom had its four characters – all Jewish New Yorkers – wager which of them could go longest without becoming what Bill Clinton might call auto-deponents. (This is where your hand has sex with you, but you don't have sex with your hands.)

Since it is almost certain that, one day soon, we will discover that the Victorians were right to warn of the medical dangers of self-abuse, and that masturbation causes cancer in terrapins, it may be time to plan ahead. How about (and forgive my limited acquaintance with technical French) *en couche avec handcuffs*?

Blurred horizons will spoil Kohl's blooming landscapes

TIMOTHY GARTON ASH

Kohl has been written off before, but my hunch is that this time the old warhorse won't make it

WHAT IS a "Blooming landscape"? On the answer to this curious question will depend the outcome of Sunday's German Election, the future of the new Germany and hence that of Europe.

Back in the historic spring of 1990, Chancellor Helmut Kohl won a crucial election in East Germany by promising to create "Blooming Landscapes" out of the post-communist wasteland. The vote meant that East Germany became just east Germany: the eastern part of a larger Federal Republic. By the time of the last Bundestag election, with old communist factories rusting all around and their workers on the dole, "Blooming Landscapes" had become a bitter joke. I saw people holding up placards at the election rallies of Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) saying "Where are the blooming landscapes?" or just "Blooming landscapes!".

But earlier this week, on the hustings at a village on the outskirts of east Berlin, I was amazed to see a poster proclaiming "Vote for Blooming Landscapes – CDU." The left-wing cartoonist Klaus Staeck is not amused. "That was *my joke*," he protests. But the Christian Democrats seriously reckon they may just be able to persuade enough east German voters that the Blooming Landscapes are here. Their future – and perhaps even ours – hinges on that gamble, because the psephologists tell us that this whole election will be decided in the east.

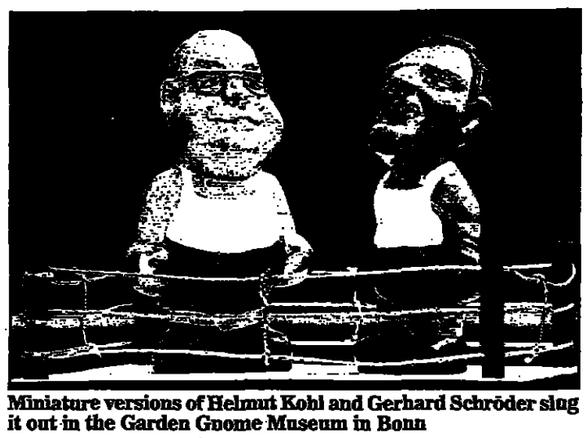
Travelling around the east over the last few days, I have found large patches of desolation, rust, unemployment, and the accompanying mixture of apathy among the old and often xenophobic anger among the young. But there are also impressive areas of large-scale construction, new jobs, energy and hope. Nowhere else in post-communist Europe does one see such vistas of shining new steel, glass and concrete. Hardly surprising, perhaps, given that west Germany has pumped more than £350bn into the east over the last eight years. But there is massive private investment too.

The mayor of a village in the "bacon belt" of commuter villages around Berlin shows me the newly-made streets and fire station, the freshly renovated school, and a whole estate of new, detached, private houses, built by local people on savings and mortgages. Saxony in the south is booming, under its Christian Democratic "King" Kurt Biedenkopf. Even in the poor northern province of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, which has more than 17 per cent unemployment, every village I drove through had some new development.

Still more important are the hearts and minds. The clichéd picture of the east you get from the British press tends to be that of resignation and resentment. Yet I found people actively and hungrily participating in a democracy that is still new to them. This has been the liveliest campaign here since that vote for unification back in 1990. Walls are plastered with posters. Meetings are packed. The issues? Jobs, of course. Law and order. As everywhere in post-communist Europe, more crime has come with more freedom. Then there is the euro. People who only got the mighty German mark eight years ago are particularly worried about giving it up. So Kohl keeps telling them the euro will be as hard as the German mark. "The French say 'The euro speaks German'," I heard him declare in the eastern city of Schwerin. "I have nothing against that."

Will Kohl pull it off? Can he convince just enough east Germans that things really are looking up, so that the present coalition of Christian Democrats and Free Democrats can continue? Well, he has been written off so many times before that you have to hesitate before doing it now. In the last fortnight, the opinion polls have shown him steadily closing the gap on his telegenic but vapid opponent, the "Clintonblair", Gerhard Schröder. The old warhorse, as Kohl describes himself, is in snorting form, charging round the country to exhort carefully-orchestrated mass rallies. The race may even have a photo finish. But my hunch is that this time he just won't make it.

Even in east Germany, where they have only had him as chancellor for eight years, and certainly in west Germany, where they have had him for 16, the simplest argument is the most important: "It's time for a change." I remember a conservative candidate in the last British election telling me that this was the one to which he had no answer. Nor does Kohl. As young people heckled him in Schwerin, he must have felt they were biting the hand that had fed them. One heckler told me: "Yes, in a way we are." But there is a reason for this too.



Miniature versions of Helmut Kohl and Gerhard Schröder slug it out in the Garden Gnome Museum in Bonn

It is not what the west Germans did, it is how they did it. It is not so much the mistakes made while incorporating east Germany into the western system. It is the arrogance, inflexibility and condescension which so many west Germans have displayed towards their compatriots.

One of the parties to profit from this resentment is the born-again, post-communist Party of Democractic Socialism (PDS), a direct successor to the Communist Party which polluted the east German countryside for 40 years. There is an intricate little irony here, of a kind which we may have to get used to in Britain, the more we introduce complicated electoral systems involving proportional representation.

The alternative government favoured by most Social Democrats is a partnership with the environmentalist Greens, the so-called red-green coalition. However psephologists reckon that a few seats won by the PDS would probably just rob the red-green alliance of the necessary majority.

What would then remain – and in my betting book this is still the likeliest outcome – would be a "grand coalition" of the two big parties: Christian Democrats and Social Democrats. If the latter got more seats, then it would be Chancellor Schröder and a Christian Democrat deputy chancellor. If the Christian Democrats got more seats, then it would be Kohl's annointed heir, Wolfgang Schäuble, as chancellor, who as a personality would be much better. (However, although Kohl has declared himself against a grand coalition, one cannot entirely discard the possibility of his staying on after all. At the last election he said he would not stand in this one).

It would be a black joke beyond even the cartoonist if Kohl's Christian Democrats were to remain in power, albeit in a "grand coalition", only thanks to east Germans voting for the post-communists. Blooming or not, those landscapes are still rich in irony.

Redistribute wealth and power

PODIUM

DAVID RENDEL

An extract from a speech made by the Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury to his party conference at Brighton

A SENIOR official of the AEEU recently made clear his views on Mark Seddon, one or the candidates for Labour's National Executive. "We don't want Mark Seddon on the NEC because he represents trouble for the Labour Party." And what was the official's reason for this? "Because Mr Seddon believes in the redistribution of power and wealth." If that's the case, I am also going to cause trouble for the Labour Party, because I also believe in the redistribution of power and wealth.

What, after all, was the introduction of pensions by Lloyd George, or the Liberal Democrat policy of a 50p tax rate on earnings of over £100,000, if not a redistribution of wealth? What is our policy of strengthening local government or of introducing a fair voting system, if not the redistribution of power?

Others also believe that Labour has now abandoned support for the redistribution of power and wealth. A Labour minister, asked recently if this was the case, hummed and hawed for some while, thinking perhaps that he was being led into a trap. Eventually the best he could come up with was: "We believe in the redistribution of opportunity." But giving opportunities to school leavers with no GCSE passes to apply for the fast-stream of the Civil Service frankly doesn't get them very far.

So what is the evidence that we need a redistribution of wealth in our country? A recent UN report pointed out that we are one of the most illiterate and poverty-stricken of all the industrial nations. More than one-sixth of British citizens lives in poverty, the third highest proportion of the 17 industrial nations listed.

The gap between the rich and the poor is too large and it is growing. This is not an efficient way to run an economy. Concentrating so large a proportion of spending power in the hands of so few people distorts rather than smoothes our economy, and is totally unnecessary.

Surprisingly, perhaps, this view is becoming more widely accepted. Recognition that the financial chasm between the richest and poorest in our country distorts the demand side of the economy has now spread to commentators of all persuasions.

The Liberal Democrats are realistic enough to understand that the redistribution of power and wealth will never come about without turning to good effect people's natural instincts for self-improvement.

One of the defining moments of my political education was to hear a lecture while still a school boy about the damage done to our country by its industrial structure – with the shareholder side of industry benefiting from holding down wages and maximising profits, and the employee side benefiting from the opposite. If the ownership of industry could gradually be transferred to the employees through worker share ownership schemes, the waste involved in industrial conflict would be avoided.

But there will always be some who, for whatever reason, *cannot* work. We must, therefore, retain an efficient and effective social security system. Unlike the Government, the Liberal Democrats recognise that increasing spending on social security is *not* necessarily wrong. There will, for example, inevitably be increased spending on the elderly as the number of pensioners increases.

So welfare reform to us is not simply a question of short-term benefit cuts, instead it should concentrate on long-term solutions.

This week, we have decided on a policy of doubling Child Benefit for one child in every family with pre-school children. Many parents believe it is best to look after their own families in their own home. We do not want to see such parents forced out to work.

We also intend to introduce a compulsory second-tier pension, so that the elderly in future have a reasonable standard of living, even though the State Retirement Pension is becoming less and less adequate every year.

The Liberal Democrats have ideals and political principles which have served us well for many decades. We have no need to change them.

The aim of politics is to put your ideals and principles into practice. One way in which we may be able to do that is in coalition. One way is to do it in opposition, and the sudden decision of Gordon Brown to give the Bank of England its independence shows how effective the Liberal Democrats can be in that way.

But the best way to ensure that your ideals and principles become those of the society you live in is by being in government yourself. That remains our aim.

A few of my pet hates

SUZANNE MOORE

Trying to buy a tortoise had turned into a kind of job interview that I was rapidly failing

Poor doggy – but why, to be kind to animals, do we preposterously insist that they are really just the same as we are? *John Cleave*

RECENTLY I had the bright idea of trying to buy my daughter a tortoise. As I had heartlessly made her give away three kittens that one of our cats had, I promised her something else instead. I had already been informed that terrapins were not suitable for children because they carry salmonella and all sorts of other horrible diseases. A tortoise, I thought, might be an easy option. How wrong I was.

When I had a tortoise, it was called Harold , after Wilson, and it lived in the garden. In winter, we put it in a box with straw like they showed you on Blue Peter. That was then – this is now.

"Do you have any idea how much they cost, madam?" said the woman in the pet shop. A fiver? "£250," she said sternly. "And that's without the microchip." I didn't want to ask "What microchip?", as I wanted to appear knowledgeable in the tortoise arena.

She told me that they were specially bred and I asked if she had any in stock. She became very serious. "Do you have UV spot-lighting?" "Uh, no. I was just going to put it outside." "If you don't mind me saying so," she said. "You do not seem suitable at all."

I realised that my trying to buy a tortoise had turned into a kind of job interview that I was rapidly failing. It ended up with me insisting that I wanted one, and her saying that she would not even put my name on a waiting list for one of these over-priced reptiles.

A friend of mine suffered a similar fate when she was trying to get a dog from a rescue centre. As she wasn't married, she was told that her lifestyle was basically not up to scratch. To be vetted by the animal police and fail is humiliation indeed.

I may have managed to bring up two children, but this carries no weight when one is judged clearly incapable of being in possession of a tortoise. Perhaps I shouldn't be allowed to have *any* pets. Every time I mention one of these luckless creatures, animal rights activists write to me informing of this fact. Strangely enough, I think they are probably right.

It is too late for me, but I wish that I had never given into my kids demands. Owning animals, I thought naively, helps teach children about life and death. Well, that's what people say to themselves anyway. In our case, we have mostly learnt about death, as we have had an unfortunate run of rodents that didn't make it past the two-week mark. We have also learnt about fleas, worms and hamsters on the run.

Clearly, my relationship to our pets is somewhat lacking. I have not entered the heady world of pet politics, nor suffered the pet deprivation of having to put an animal in quarantine. I have neither a dog nor, regrettably, an "international lifestyle", and I had not even heard of that influential pressure group, Passports for Pets, which campaigns to end quarantine.

Passports for Pets is full of suffering superstars, and as we know that if there is anything worse than a animal in distress, then it is a suffering celebrity. I don't know if mere mortals can imagine the kind of agony that these people go through. Jilly Cooper has not been on holiday abroad for 12 years, because she didn't want to leave Hero and Bessie. The most "soul-destroying time" Katie Boyle has ever had, came when she had to put a dog she had rescued in Kenya into quarantine. David Hockney cannot face the ordeal that his dachshunds would have to go through were he to return to his native Yorkshire. Unlucky Liz Hurley cannot even have a dog, because the US is considered a rabid zone, and she has to spend so much time there. Chris Patten's terriers are currently residing in France, and he has described the arrangements here in Britain as "indefensible".

All these people welcome the proposed "radical changes in our quarantine laws". Such a change has been enabled through a combination of vaccination and electronic tagging. Already, others are complaining that the micro-chipping of dogs and cats is effectively the return of a dog licence that penalises the poor, particularly pensioners. To be poor is bad enough: to be poor and petless is the final blow.

It seems logical that, as the threat of rabies diminishes, the laws should be relaxed. Yet the language that all this is discussed in is emotive, to say the least. Pets go through the "ordeal" of quarantine, while their miserable owners have to endure separation from their beloved. Our peculiar attitude to animals is once more on display in the hyperbole surrounding this announcement. After the BSE fiasco, it is apparent that we need to think carefully about the spread of disease among animals, yet the unquestioning division of animals into those that we love, and those we love to eat, produces the gross sentimentality that abounds.

Once, when I took my daughter fishing, she divided up the worms into the "bad worms", who could be put on the hook, and those designated "pet worms", which could be looked after. This childish and arbitrary division is everywhere replicated by adults who should know better. I don't doubt that people love their pets, and are concerned about unnecessary cruelty to animals. I just don't understand why, in order to be kind to animals, we have to pretend that they are just like us.

This month's *Your Dog* magazine informs us, for instance, that dogs can be affected by marital break-up. They can apparently "be just as affected as the humans involved". Really? Are they sitting there worried about who gets the kid and who gets the Barry Manilow CDs? Are they devastated because their master has a new mistress?

On a symbolic level, we load our pets, not only with human attributes, but project on to them all sorts of emotions that they just don't have. Cats represent independence and faithlessness, and thus indicate that their owners are wild, free spirits. Actually, cats have very small brains. They operate via instinct rather than intelligence, because they are not capable of learning anything. No one, of course, accepts this, preferring to insist that their cats, like their children, are particularly gifted.

The culture is awash with images of animals who behave like humans, and humans whose main goal in life is to save mangy dogs. Domestic animals have replaced wild animals as a mainstay of TV viewing. Not only are the endless vet programmes cheap television, they perpetuate the myth that every half-dead budgie can be brought back to life. We watch extensive exploratory surgery performed on alsations, who may or may not have swallowed a piece of wire, when we know stories of human beings waiting months for operations.

All of this may be a sign of how much we love animals, which is one of our national boasts, but in reality the need for tagging has come about because of the increased number of strays – pets who are abandoned. The solution may indeed be to discourage pet ownership in the first place.

As much as I resented being vetted to see if I was responsible enough to own a tortoise, I have to accept that it is true that I was never going to devote my life to one of these things. Instead of listening to tales of celebrity agony over quarantined animals, perhaps we should accept that those who are really concerned about animal welfare would never keep pets in the first place.

There is no fancy way to say this, but, in the pet department, I have surely sinned. We all do; yet to suggest that no one, even jet-setting celebrities, should be allowed to have pets, is a far more radical proposal than any vote-seeking politician would dare to make.

RIGHT OF REPLY

FUAD NAHDI

The editor of an Islamic journal criticises our call for the lifting of the fatwa against Salman Rushdie

YOUR LEADING article urging pressure on Iran to lift the fatwa against Rushdie is based on a misapprehension of how Islamic law functions. Islam is a non-institutional religion where verdicts are the responsibility of their authors and not of the hierarchies to which they belong; there is no Muslim "church" with the power to work posthumous changes in Khomeini's mind. Subsequent Muslim authorities may dissent from Khomeini's views but those who remain loyal to his interpretation will always regard the fatwa as legitimate.

Islamophobic discourse of the type platformed by *The Satanic Verses* legitimises systematic discrimination against Muslims. A Jewish writer who aired anti-Semitic views and denied the Holocaust, would, I suspect, not command such enthusiasm on your part. And yet the degree of hurt to a despised community has been no less; indeed, the Muslim community is more vulnerable, poorer, and less represented than British Jewry.

A more worthy target for your campaigning zeal would be the blasphemy laws, which at present discriminate in favour of the established religion. In 1994, the European Court of Human Rights upheld a ban by the Austrian courts on the anti-Christian film *Council in Heaven*. In their verdict, the judges "did not consider that the film's merit as a work of art or as a contribution to public debate in Austrian society outweighed those features which made it essentially offensive to the general public".

If Britain could extend this principle to protect minority as well as majority faiths, Rushdie would undoubtedly be safe to emerge from the shadows. That is the only approach which respects the principle of human equality, as well as Mr Rushdie's right to life.

The 20th century seen from Oxford

FRIDAY BOOK

THE OXFORD HISTORY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
EDITED BY MICHAEL HOWARD AND WM ROGER LOUIS, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, £25

THERE IS no good reason why centuries – let alone millennia – should be considered as meaningful units of time. They do not correspond to any of the patterns of change historians have claimed to discover: not the rise and fall of empires, nor the "long waves" of economic boom and bust, nor the slower tides of climatic alteration. And a century is just a bit too long for the terms of a human lifespan. If Pacific redwood trees or Galapagos tortoises wrote history books, they might find meaning in the idea of a century, but why should we?

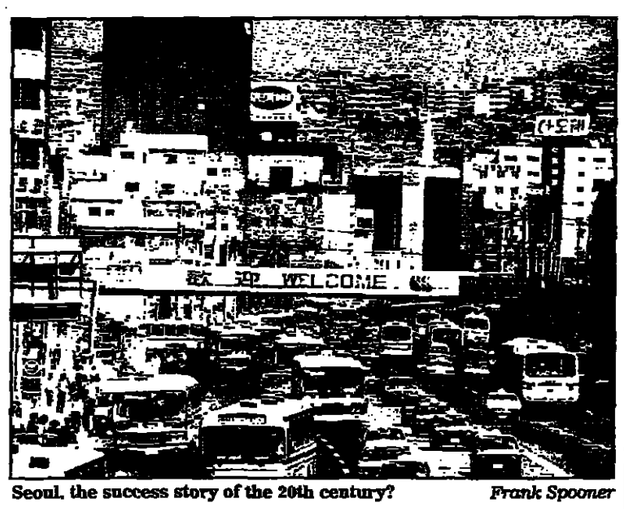
A general history of the 20th century might thus be thought an impossible and meaningless enterprise. But it is also a challenge historians cannot resist. Oxford has got in early with its version and, as attempts at the impossible go, Michael Howard and Wm Roger Louis have made a better shot than most of their rivals are likely to manage.

The volume is uneven, patchy, partial and full of gaping holes: it could not be otherwise. There seems no obvious reason, for instance, why the visual arts should have a chapter while music, literature, the cinema and architecture do not. Yet it is also intelligently organised, imaginatively illustrated, accessible, lucid and – so far as one can judge across such a vast canvas – factually ultra-reliable. In places, as with Alan Ryan's and Ralf Dahrendorf's contributions, it goes beyond the solid survey to offer genuinely bold and provocative argument about where the world is now going.

So what is in it, and what is not? First, the book is what the title says: the century as seen from Oxford University and a few other prestigious academies of the Anglophone world. The contributors are almost all British or US-born white males who have spent most of their careers working in that rather special milieu. To note this is not to engage in a trivial piece of "PC" whingeing. All the contributors are globally respected experts, and no one could complain that, say, Terence Ranger on Africa or Roger Owen on the Middle East take narrowly Eurocentric views of their subjects. Rather, it is to underline that this is a view from a very particular place. That matters because, from other perspectives, a central part of the century's story has been a gradual decline in the relative importance of that place.

One could go further, and float the suggestion that across most of recorded history East Asia – above all China – has been the real centre of the world on every level, from sheer population, through technological sophistication, to international trade. During the last two centuries – a mere blip in historical time – that dominant position was usurped by the countries of the North Atlantic seaboard. Are we now, despite the even briefer blip of recent market panics, seeing the return of Pacific Asia to its hegemonic status? Jonathan Spence, in the China chapter, gives a fairly straight narrative of political events and does not have the space even to raise such questions.

China, of course, still has a long way to go. But the most dramatic success story of the century's second half is not the global reach of the US, nor Germany's recovery, nor Japan's renewed dynamism – but the rise of South Korea. For the first half of the century, Korea was a victim first of colonial subjugation, then of devastating war.



Seoul, the success story of the 20th century? *Frank Spooner*

Within a generation, an industrial giant has risen from the ashes. Akira Iriye (not, coincidentally, the only non-North Atlantic contributor) briefly notes that astounding transformation, but the possible messages do not permeate to other parts of the book. A history of the century written from China or Korea would look dramatically different from this mainly Atlantic version. The editors ask "Has it... been a good century or will it be remembered as one of the most murderous in human history?" They must know the question is unanswerable, except via such banalities as "Depends where you were sitting".

An almost equally striking bias is that this is overwhelmingly a political and cultural history. There is some economics – Robert Skidelsky has a valiant go at summarising global economic change in 13 pages – and some demography, but little social history. One can imagine a very different history whose chapter headings would be not "The Confrontation of the Superpowers" or "The Visual Arts", but things such as "The Spread of Contraception" and "The Rise of the Teenager". Probably, someone will produce it before the end of 1999.

Nor do any of the contributors even nod towards the crisis of confidence that has afflicted so many historians at century's end, under the impact of post-modernist ideas. Yet another kind of history could be devoted to denouncing the very idea of History, arguing that the subject of historical writing can only be language itself, not some reality outside it. There are no such things as "society" or "the economy"; only texts about texts. No centuries, only sentences. No doubt someone, somewhere is writing that book too – but hardly anyone outside university Cultural Studies departments will read it.

STEPHEN HOWE

FRIDAY POEM

LULLABY OF THE THAMES
BY GLYN MAXWELL

Now you are in my life, my insomniac,
I'll spare you some of this from the deep gardens.
Yours, your sleep I'd make like how the black
Unsmiling river turns and stretches, widens
Or narrows, knowing nothing of its names,
Or how it rose and why, or that all around
New days burst open, hurting. Like the Thames
Your sleep I'd have long, easy, grey, east-running,
With a light dirt of dream where it meets ground.

This poem comes from Glyn Maxwell's new collection, 'The Breakage' (Faber, £7.99).

The Right Rev Brian Masters

Masters was consecrated Bishop of Edmonton in 1984

THE APPOINTMENT of Brian Masters as Bishop Suffragan of Fulham in 1982 was one of the boldest and, many thought, reckless decisions of Graham Leonard when he was Bishop of London.

The Anglo-Catholic cast of the diocese, notably in the central episcopal area, demanded a bishop who was in sympathy with the leading parishes. But Masters's preferment was also in recognition of his powers as a politician in the corridors of the General Synod and on its committees in which he worked unflaggingly for the Anglo-Catholic cause. His influence was enormous, yet he rarely spoke in the chamber and exercised sway behind the scenes. He was more influential there than anywhere else and in the course of his work he bridged the gap between Anglo-Catholics and Evangelicals and united them against the Liberal Protestant ascendancy which they regarded as a common enemy.

He was born in Horsham, in Sussex, the only child of Stanley and Grace Masters; his father was a farm labourer and there was no religious influence in the home. His mother lived with him for the greater part of his ministerial life.

Educated at Collyers School, he went up to Queens' College, Cambridge, where he read Classics and Law. It was at Cambridge that Masters came under the influence of Liberal Anglo-Catholicism, at Little St Mary's. He was captivated by cultural Anglicanism in an educated and aesthetically satisfying form and this remained the predominant religious persuasion of his life. After seven years as a Lloyd's broker he went up to Cuddesdon Theological College, Oxford, to read for holy orders and was ordained in 1964. He served a curacy of five years in East London at St Dunstan's, Stepney, during the vigorous incumbency of Canon Edwin Young. There he entered fully into Prayer Book Catholicism and a disciplined sacramental life.

Masters's appointment to Holy Trinity, Hoxton, in 1969 was unexpected and moved him into a different level of churchmanship. Holy Trinity was in the vanguard of Anglo-Catholic extremism, a parish where the Book of Common Prayer was hardly known. He succeeded Kenneth Loveless, a flamboyant and idiosyncratic ultra-Romanist, who had left a flourishing parish with a large cockney congregation. Masters was not an extrovert. His character was marked by a genteel, Anglican reserve; he was shy and politically was a high Tory. It was his curates who put him on correct liturgical rails (from which he never subsequently deviated) and in his 13 years in Hoxton he was converted from moderate high churchmanship to a fuller understanding of Catholicism.

Masters was a good administrator, ran the parish with efficiency and was a hard-working visitor. The people of Hoxton took to him with respect rather than affection; but he loved them and many were startled by the success with which he got on with gangster elements in the parish.

His heart was in what he described as central work and that was the General Synod, to which he was elected in 1974. He was active in the Catholic Group, on diocesan committees, in the Church Union (of which he was chairman of the executive committee in 1984-88) and in the deanery of Hackney. He was a clergyman's clergyman and he had no significant life beyond the Church.

Masters was a member of the Vacancy and See Committee and his quick appointment as Bishop of Fulham soon after Bishop Leonard had been translated from Truro took many by surprise. His administrative skills led his friends to surmise that he might become an archdeacon, but nobody thought he would be promoted beyond his own expectations.

Masters came into his own as a bishop. Dressed by Gamarelli, the papal tailor, he revelled in the rubrics of the *Ceremoniale Episcoporum* and performed them with dignity in the noble sanctuaries of the West End of London. One of his pectoral crosses contained a relic of the True Cross. His translation to the Edmonton Episcopal Area in 1984 soon demonstrated that he was a good pastoral bishop who took a personal interest in the parishes and was closely involved with the priests who served them.

He made himself freely available and because he was a believer he happily fitted into Evangelical parishes. He ran the area as if it was an independent diocese. Like Bishop Leonard, he realised that, to be itself, the Anglo-Catholic party needed bishops to behave as bishops and Masters properly fulfilled that role.

Masters came into his own as a bishop – dressed by Gamarelli, the papal tailor. But it was not in his bones or nature to want to be a Roman Catholic

The developments that led to the General Synod's vote for the ordination of women in 1992 gave him anxiety. He was a strong opponent of the campaign: his consecration removed him from being a member of the Synod and prevented him from exercising direct political influence. When the result was known a member telephoned him immediately afterwards. He said, "Oh well, the match is over. It is only a question of how long it takes to walk to the pavilion."

He was compelled to consider his position. He sought an interview with Cardinal Hume but was recommended to stay, for the time being, where he was in order to help those among his clergymen who wanted to become Roman Catholics. Many of his closest friends and colleagues did so but some stayed in their parishes and he did not want to abandon a flock that needed shepherding.

Masters never took part in the ordination of a woman and allied himself with the Forward in Faith movement; his premature loss as a leader will be acutely felt. He believed that the legislation for female ordination "destroyed the claim of the Church of England to be part of the universal Church, flouts biblical teaching and severely damages the prospect of unity with the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches".

Despite his liking for extremes, Masters was quintessentially Anglican. It was not in his bones or nature to want to be a Roman Catholic and in that he allowed his heart to rule his head. He was broken by what he saw as the General Synod's destruction of the Church of England as he knew it.

ANTHONY SYMONDSON

Amongst Brian Masters's many and notable contributions to the life of the Diocese of London was his 14-year stint as Chairman of the London Diocesan Advisory Committee, writes Kenneth Powell.

With some 500 churches in its care, many of them, including Wren's City churches, nationally important monuments and the vast majority listed buildings, the London DAC meant long meetings – which Bishop Brian chaired with patience, good-humour and, on occasions, a barbed wit – a welter of correspondence, and inevitable involvement in controversial building and reordering schemes.

Graham Leonard's decision to appoint Brian Masters to the DAC was thought unwise by many, but Masters accepted it in the loyal spirit with which he served a diocesan whose methods, unlike his principles, he could not always endorse. The parishes of the London diocese reflect every variant of Anglicanism. Though predominantly Anglo-Catholic, the diocese contains a strong (and growing) Evangelical element. The DAC was (and continues to be) presented with schemes radically to recast historic churches in the interests of "mission" – typically, pews would be cast out, and chancels stripped of their traditional fittings to be made into platforms for new-style music groups.

It was hard for Masters, as a bishop, to take a lead in opposing such schemes. Indeed, in his work at the DAC as in his other activities, he went out of his way to be objective, non-partisan, and open-minded, leaving the heated arguments to others. As a result, perhaps, there were occasions when the pendulum swung too far towards mission at the expense of conservation. The heritage lobby, reasonably enough, perhaps, highlighted these as instances of the failure of the Anglican system.

At heart, Brian Masters was a traditionalist and a Catholic, deeply attached to the Church of England, for all its compromises and contradictions, and never a likely convert to Rome. He was an impressive figure who graced many an occasion, including the opening of a Liberal Jewish synagogue in north London, with his elegant episcopal garb – including skullcap.

He loved church buildings, believing them to be assets rather than burdens, and the beauty and variety of the Anglican liturgy. His death is a grievous blow to those who share his views.

Brian John Masters, priest: born Horsham, Sussex 17 October 1932; ordained deacon 1964, priest 1965; Vicar of Holy Trinity, Hoxton 1969-82; Suffragan Bishop of Fulham 1982-84; Area Bishop of Edmonton 1984-98; died London 23 September 1998.

Geoffrey Dutton

GEOFFREY DUTTON was one of the most prolific, versatile and talented writers in the literary history of Australia.

His contribution to Australian letters was probably unrivalled in his generation – a remarkable output of nine collections of poetry, eight novels (three for children), and critical studies, biographies of Australian writers and explorers as well as of the American poet, Walt Whitman, travel books and works of art appreciation: over 40 publications in all including, in 1994, a disarmingly frank autobiography, *Out in the Open*.

As well he wrote hundreds of essays, articles and reviews for literary journals and newspapers: he was a superb critic, penetrating and incisive in his judgements. He was a formidable force as a literary catalyst, founding some of his country's best-known literary journals, as an editor for Penguin Australia and later co-founder of the publisher, Sun Books.

He was an enthusiastic advocate of government funding of the arts and mainly responsible for the establishment of the now internationally famous Adelaide Festival of the Arts. He was awarded the high distinction of Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1976.

Dutton was born in 1922 into a patrician and pioneering South Australian family whose English forebears had founded the state's first sheep stud farm in 1838 – a magnificent property named "Anlaby" to the north of Adelaide. He was educated at the Geelong Grammar School and the University of Adelaide, where he read English under J.I.M. Stewart (of later "Michael Innes" fame). He interrupted his studies to enlist with the RAAF, where he became a flying instructor.

After the Second World War, Dutton, like his father and brother before him, entered Magdalen College, Oxford. He was unimpressed with post-war Britain, of which he later wrote: "the climate was vile, the dinginess and overcrowding depressing and, worst of all, despite hopes raised by the comradeship of war, the class system was entrenched as strongly as it had ever been". But he greatly enjoyed his three years at Oxford, where a college contemporary was Kenneth Tynan and his tutors J.A.W. Bennett, whom he greatly admired, and C.S. Lewis, whom he did not. "He was like a jolly thick-lipped, red-faced butcher, only that he was not really jolly. You felt with Lewis that if you dropped dead as you went out through the door after the tutorial he would not notice."

After Oxford he toured Europe and returned to Adelaide where, before embarking on a full-time writing career, he lectured in English for a few years at the university.

'Enough of Duttonry,' said Patrick White

There was an elegance in Dutton's writing that matched his personality. An entertaining conversationalist and raconteur, he had a wide circle of friends including leading local and overseas writers and artists such as Sidney Nolan and Arthur Boyd. For over 20 years he was an intimate of the Nobel prizewinning novelist Patrick White, notorious for his abrupt termination of friendships. Dutton suffered the same fate when White took exception to something Dutton had written about his work in a local journal. "I've had enough of Duttonry," he wrote tersely.

Happier was Dutton's friendship with the Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko, whom he arranged to visit the Adelaide Festival in 1966 and again for a visit in 1973 when Dutton took the poet on an outback trip. "He had an enormous capacity for drink," Dutton recalled, "and he developed a taste for Australian champagne."

Dutton had many of Yevtushenko's poems translated and published and they corresponded for many years.

Another visiting poet whose company Dutton enjoyed was Laurie Lee. The similarity of their poetry was a bond between them – lyrical themes of love and an appreciation of the countryside. "Laurie had a crumpled look and an amiable manner and obviously enjoyed the opportunity to get away from the cities. He thought the lyric was still alive and well in Australia because we were all close to the country even if we lived in the city – there was something of the bush in or near every Australian city."

A period in the United States in 1963 as a visiting professor of English at Kansas State University and the American experience led Dutton ardently to embrace the cause of republicanism. On his return he wrote and lectured forthrightly that Australia would not achieve its potential unless it became a republic, enraging a then largely pro-monarch establishment. Nevertheless Dutton attracted a considerable following and in 1990 became an influential member of the Australian Republican Movement, comprising many leading citizens urging the creation of an Australian republic by 2001.

Dutton married twice: in 1944 the well-known enamellist Ninette Trott, by whom he had two sons and a daughter, and in 1985 the writer Robin Lucas.

Geoffrey Dutton's tall, slim figure with his mop of grey hair and his quizzical and always benign expression was usually discernible in any gathering of writers at festivals, seminars and the like. His zest for life, his friendly personality, his enthusiasm for writing and his readiness to offer help and advice to young writers, will be remembered by all who knew him.

CLEMENT SEMMLER

Geoffrey Piers Henry Dutton, writer: born Anlaby, South Australia 2 August 1922; AO 1976; married 1944 Ninette Trott (two sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1985), 1985 Robin Lucas; died Canberra 17 September 1998.

A prolific try-scorer in a side renowned for its expansive play

John Stopford

JOHN STOPFORD was one of the finest rugby league wingers of the 1960s, his impact only limited by injuries and by comparisons with all-time greats who played the same role at the same time.

In a golden age for wing play, only Billy Boston at Wigan and Tom Van Vollenhoven at St Helens were consistently more effective and eye-catching than was Stopford on the left flank for Swinton.

He was the cutting edge of the evocatively named three-quarter line of Speed, Fleet, Buckley and Stopford that took his club to the First Division Championship in 1962-3 and 1963-4, and he also played 12 Tests for Great Britain between 1961 and 1966.

Originally from Wigan, he was rejected by his home-town club after trials in their second team, but was signed by Swinton, for a mere £250, whilst performing his National Service as an army physical training instructor.

Once he found his natural position on the left wing, Stopford became a prolific try-scorer in a side renowned for its expansive play. His combination with his centre, Alan Buckley, was arguably the best in the game and by his final game for the club in 1969 he had scored 195 tries in 297 appearances. Neither as physically powerful as Boston, nor as rangy as Van Vollenhoven, he combined raw speed with considerable trickery and was a danger from anywhere on the field.

His tally of tries would have been even greater but for persistent ill-luck with his fitness. He had the unenviable record of missing four Lancashire Cup finals in five years, thanks to various injuries. In what reads like a sporting equivalent of "Groundhog Day", Swinton played St Helens on each occasion and, with their potential match-winner on the sidelines, lost all four finals.

Stopford scored 16 tries in 15 games on the 1966 Great Britain tour of Australia, but ran into further injury problems on his return and was rarely seen at his best after that. When he left Swinton, he played a dozen games for Blackpool Borough before retiring.

He had a short spell as coach of Swinton and emigrated to work as a coach, first in Wellington, New Zealand, and then for five years in New South Wales before returning to run a pub in Wigan. His death, two days short of his 62nd birthday, removes one of the links with an era when every side seemed to have a devastating winger. In John Stopford, Swinton had one of the very best.

DAVE HADFIELD

John Stopford, rugby league player: born Wigan 23 August 1936; married 1958 Margaret Heywood (one son); died Wigan 21 August 1998.

Lord Marks of Broughton

MICHAEL MARKS never recovered from being the son of his parents, though his sister Hannah had no such problems.

Simon Marks, the first Lord Marks of Broughton, who died in 1964, was possibly the greatest merchant prince of the century. His own father, another Michael, had arrived in England from Poland in 1882 and first traded in Leeds as Marks' Penny Bazaar ("Don't ask the price – it's a penny"); in 1894 he had taken a partner, Tom Spencer, and in 1926, when the younger Michael was six years old and his father was 38, they went public as Marks & Spencer.

Simon's wife too, Miriam Sieff, was a dynamic and colourful character in her own right. Michael grew up in the shade of this powerful pair into a shy, bookish, retiring figure, indifferent to the empire his father had created, deeply troubled by his inevitable wealth and fearful that any friendly approach might conceal a predator.

He married five times and only his first wife, Ann Pinto, chosen from the ranks of the "*haute juiverie*", and who bore him a son and two daughters, was considered appropriate by the family; which was shaken by his conversion, with his last wife, to her Greek Orthodox faith.

I first met him on the lawn of his father's house, Titlarks Farm, Sunningdale, in the summer of 1941. He told me he was a Communist. My father told me Michael had given a grand piano to his girlfriend, a musician, but it was too big to negotiate the stairs to her bedsitter.

I was rather drawn to this scruffy, nervous fellow, so different to the rest of his family, who knew so much about painting, music and literature and we became sort of friends. He took me to lunch a few times, bearing his own thermos of tea, in the boardroom of his father, at Michael House, the headquarters of M&S, and when I became a publisher his mother asked me to give him a job.

He knew more about children's books than anybody I have ever met (and was the author of one in *The Prince of the Golden Apple*, 1975) and could and should have been a bookseller.

He never seemed to have any cash for his cab fare and the only money I ever had off him was for a charity to acquire a children's library, and £5 I charged him for playing a game of tennis, which he paid quite cheerfully.

Despite his talents and intelligence he achieved nothing and his entry in *Who's Who* simply lists his date of birth and his children.

Crippled by money, he was a martyr to (his own) fortune.

ANTHONY BLOND

Michael Marks: born 27 August 1920; succeeded 1964 as second Baron Marks of Broughton; married 1949 Ann Pinto (one son, two daughters; marriage dissolved 1958), 1960 Helene Fischer (marriage dissolved 1965), 1976 Toshiko Shimura (marriage dissolved 1985), 1988 Liyang Chang (marriage dissolved 1993), 1994 Marina Collins (née Sakalis); died 11 September 1998.

Michael Marks: under the shadow of St Michael

Herman D. Koppel

HERMAN D. KOPPEL was the last surviving member of the great triumvirate that took over the helm of Danish music after Carl Nielsen. Vagn Holmboe died in 1996, at the aged of 86. Finn Høffding died last year, aged 97. Now Koppel, too, is dead, a few weeks before his 90th birthday. He was a permanent feature of Danish musical life from the 1920s until only a year or so ago, when his health began to falter – with a brief interruption in 1943 when Koppel, a Jew, took refuge from Hitler's occupying forces in southern Sweden. He died a national monument, garlanded with honours.

Koppel's parents were Polish immigrants who in 1907 came to Denmark in their late teens as refugees from Russian occupation. Herman was born a year later. His parents were not musical – his father was a tailor, who worked with a dedication that brought the family moderate comfort – but as a safeguard against poverty they made sure that their children knew music. And so at the age of five or six Herman was put to the piano and his younger brother Julius to the violin (he, too, became a distinguished musician).

Herman made rapid progress and at the age of 17 was admitted to the Royal Danish Conservatory, having been rejected earlier simply because he was too young; his piano teachers there were Rudolf Simonsen, director of the Conservatory, and Anders Rachlew.

It was through his application for admission to the Conservatory that, in December 1925, Koppel first met Nielsen himself. Nielsen examined the scores Koppel had submitted in support of his request, complimented the young composer on his sense of form and told him what his own teacher, Niels Gade, born in 1817 and a friend of Mendelssohn, had told him. Koppel's own teaching career, five decades long, was later to pass on that sense of continuity.

The contact with Nielsen deepened when Simonsen asked Koppel if he would like to give Nielsen a hand preparing a cantata he had composed for the opening of an exhibition, and so Koppel began to study Nielsen's piano works under the guidance of their composer. He made his début as a pianist in 1930 (a year after his début as a composer) playing Nielsen's *Theme and Variations*, and soon afterwards gave a concert consisting entirely of Nielsen's piano music. He went to Nielsen's home to play him the programme beforehand; Nielsen professed himself very happy with Koppel's playing. Koppel in turn found Nielsen "a very kind person, very quiet" – and, far from acting the great man, "he looked at my compositions and gave me advice – not instruction, for he accepted it as it was".

After the Nazis occupied Denmark in 1940, they initially left the Danish Jews alone, and in 1943 Koppel was still able to act as assistant to the ailing Simonsen. But the outlook was darkening, and when one of Simonsen's pupils, a daughter of the Danish Minister of Defence, brought advice from her father that Koppel and his family should get out, he took it seriously and fled with his family across the Kattegat.

Koppel had been composing assiduously all this time and continued to do so throughout his life, eventually amassing a catalogue of impressive size. The earliest influence on his music was, of course, Nielsen, but Stravinsky and Bartók soon pushed themselves forward; and Koppel also took a keen interest in jazz. Koppel synthesised these styles into a language that may not have been wildly original – he was no radical – but which always showed complete mastery of his materials.

He wrote generously for his own instrument, the piano: there are four concertos, a number of chamber works with piano, a sonata, several sets of variations and some miniatures. More impressively yet, there is a cycle of seven imposing symphonies, the fifth of which won the Tivoli symphony competition in 1956. There are several other orchestral works, including a Concerto for Orchestra that will test the mettle of any group that attempts it, and the haunting *Memory for strings*, written three years ago to commemorate the end of the Second World War.

In Copenhagen in March 1996 the Welsh conductor Owain Arwel Hughes rescued Koppel's magisterial oratorio Moses from three decades of neglect. Moses, a setting of extracts from the book of Genesis, is available on CD and will give a fair indication of how impressive Koppel's music can be: it's a work of granitic strength and grim, hieratic severity, stylistically reminiscent of Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* but with a sense of fearsome power that the Russian never achieved.

Yet even in his native Denmark Koppel's music isn't given the respect – and the performances – it deserves, simply because it isn't known. A good part of the blame can be ascribed to Koppel himself: he was notoriously uninterested in his own music and never pushed it. When I was getting to know him, I wondered if he had written anything since the dictionary entries I had consulted and asked if his tally of symphonies still stood at seven. He was genuinely unsure: "Seven, eight, something like that – I can't remember." He also got wrong the number of piano concertos he had composed. Trying to get him to talk about his music was like pulling teeth.

How would he characterise his symphonic style? "It's very difficult to describe one's own music. I don't know." How had his music evolved over the years? "I cannot describe it." He was, moreover, completely devoid of bitterness about his neglect: "I remember from my own youth thinking that there were a lot of old composers and that it was us, who were young, who should be played. And maybe young people today feel the same way – it's quite natural!"

'What can you do? People offer him grants to get his music recorded and he sends them off to record his children and grandchildren!'

I asked one Danish record-producer why so little of Koppel's music was recorded. "What can you do?" he asked in obvious frustration. "People offer him grants to get his music recorded and he sends them off to record his children and grandchildren!"

Koppel's family is indeed one of the best-known features of the Danish musical landscape. His sons Anders and Thomas are both composers of "serious" popular music and keyboard players, and his daughters, too, are practising musicians: Therese is a pianist and Lone an opera singer – and his grandchildren are carrying on the family tradition. Koppel's deep involvement with his children's music-making was demonstrated publicly in 1993 when, at the age of 86, he gave the first performance of Anders' piano concerto.

The longevity of his career as a pianist means that – until someone makes a systematic attempt to perform and record his music – it is as a pianist that Koppel will best be remembered, and one whose musicianship remained intact for almost eight decades. In his seventies he celebrated his retirement from teaching by learning Schoenberg's piano music. In 1991 he marked the 60th anniversary of Nielsen's death by performing his piano music in New York. I first met him, in 1995, when he was 86; he had just returned from performing in Gdansk. A volume of Szymanowski's piano music he had picked up there was lying on his piano, and I asked him if he knew one of the works in it. No, let's see, he said, opened the music and gave it a phenomenal performance at sight.

But the true legacy of Herman D. Koppel (he always used the "D.", which stood for David) is the music. Perhaps the fact that he has died without seeing it pass into the repertoire will prick a few Danish consciences into dusting it down and letting the world hear it at last.

MARTIN ANDERSON

Herman David Koppel, composer, pianist and teacher: born Copenhagen 1 October 1908; married 1935 Edel-Vibeke Clausen-Bruhn (two sons, two daughters), 1976 Inge Vibeke Kabel (née Raunkjær); died Copenhagen 14 July 1998.

Trying to get him to talk about his music was like pulling teeth

HISTORICAL NOTES

MARC WADSWORTH

A one-man party in Parliament

WHEN AN Indian Communist was elected to Parliament from a south London seat in 1922 his working-class supporters said they thought they would storm heaven next. The surprise new MP for North Battersea was Shapurji Dorabji Saklatvala, a charismatic politician closely related to the Tatas, a wealthy family credited with the building of modern industry in India.

Saklatvala, the third Indian and joint first Communist to be elected to the House of Commons, turned his back on great riches to fight for Indian independence and the world's poor at the heart of the British Empire. He married a working-class Englishwoman, Sally Marsh, the daughter of a Derbyshire quarryman. She was a waitress at Smedley's Hydro health spa at Matlock when she met Saklatvala, who had been sent there by his employers the Tatas, to convalesce after a bout of malaria.

A big business client of the British Raj, the Tata company was embarrassed by Saklatvala's vocal stance on Indian independence. So he was sent to England, out of the way. At first he dabbled in Liberal politics. However, it was not long before he rejected the idea that liberalism could deliver freedom for the oppressed people of India or Britain and he joined the left-wing Independent Labour Party (ILP). But even the ILP was not radical enough for him and in 1921 he joined the newly formed Communist Party of Great Britain.

A year earlier, during a time of chronic shortage of jobs and economic recession, Saklatvala had become active in "Red" Battersea campaigning for the unemployed. It was here he met an important ally, the Pan-Africanist John Archer, who, in 1913, became Britain's first black mayor. Saklatvala was an early proponent of African and Asian unity; indeed he clashed with M.K. Gandhi on this issue as well as over the gradualist rather than revolutionary tactics the Mahatma employed in his mass movement for Indian independence.

Saklatvala was the first person to be imprisoned during the 1926 General Strike after being prosecuted for a "seditious" speech imploring the Army not to shoot strikers. He suffered police Special Branch raids on his home and, most painfully for him, was banned by the Conservative government from visiting India following a successful speaking tour of the country in 1927. After the General Election, two years later, Labour continued the ban. The United States also barred Saklatvala's entry for fear that he might "stir up unrest". Though, when first elected, he was endorsed as a parliamentary candidate by Labour despite being an open member of the Communist Party (the only time this was allowed to happen, such was "Comrade Sak's" popularity), he eventually fell out with the party he denounced as the "Labourals".

'Comrade Sak'

In 1929, when he stood solely as a Communist he was trounced by an "official" Labour candidate and was never again returned to Parliament. It took a bitter struggle by the "Black Section" campaign before any more black MPs – three African-Caribbean and one Asian – were elected in 1987. (After the 1997 general election there were nine black MPs – all of them Labour.) Saklatvala, a member of the tiny Persian-descended Parsee community of Bombay, clashed with his comrades in the Communist Party when he put all five of his children through the Zoroastrian *navjote* initiation ceremony. Their criticism of his "backward" religious observance exposed a Eurocentrism which finds an echo today in the Islamaphobic attitude of some liberals after the Rushdie affair. During most of his two terms in Parliament, Saklatvala had to operate as a "one man party". He did not live to see Indian independence, his most enduring legacy.

Marc Wadsworth is the author of 'Comrade Sak, Shapurji Saklatvala MP: a political biography' (Peepal Tree Press, £9.99)

Obituary: Irving Berlin

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

25 SEPTEMBER 1989

Noël Coward called it 'the potency of cheap music'. Mark Steyn identifies the lyrical virtues of the author of 'White Christmas'

THE NAME synonymous with popular music began life as a printer's error, when Izzy Baline's first published song was credited to "I. Berlin".

Izzy liked that and decided to go the whole way: Irving Berlin. It was for him the logical completion of a naturalisation process begun in 1892, when the Baline family arrived at US Immigration, Ellis Island, New York. Berlin had been born in a Siberian village called Temun – at least, that's what he called it. He wasn't sure how to spell it, and it was academic anyway: some over-zealous Cossacks rode in, razed the village, slaughtered most of the inhabitants, and sent the Balines scuttling west.

Few others from that vast European exodus repaid their adopted country quite so fulsomely as Berlin. Unlike the vulgar, bullying flag-waving of George M. Cohan's "Yankee Doodle Dandy", "God Bless America" is a heartfelt Valentine to the mountains and prairies, the oceans white with foam. If the New World has lost its innocence since then, Berlin's ideal is still one worth aspiring to, which is why most citizens prefer singing his unofficial national anthem, rather than the actual one, "The Star-Spangled Banner".

Alone among the greats, he was unembarrassed about writing "occasional" songs: "White Christmas", "Easter Parade", "There's No Business Like Show Business". And unlike those Christmas hits cynically manufactured as a songwriter's seasonal insurance policy, his were so simple, so affecting that they transcended mere hit status to become part of the event itself.

He considered himself, he once said, to be a reincarnation of Stephen Foster, writer of "Oh, Susanna!" and "The Old Folks at Home". But Foster died young and destitute; Berlin lived to see his songs become some of the highest earners of the video age. He began writing in 1906 at a time when sheet music was the only means of dissemination, popular songs were sung at home and their writers were routinely abused and exploited by the major Tin Pan Alley publishing houses.

Berlin became his own publisher, painstakingly bought back all his early songs and successfully marketed his catalogue in each new medium. He and his catalogue survived to make nonsense of the American copyright laws: he outlived the expiry dates on his earliest work, including "Alexander's Ragtime Band"; the alarm clock that woke American popular music (in Alan Jay Lerner's phrase), written in 1911 but still one of the most performed songs nearly 80 years later.

Admirers of more obviously "sophisticated" writers tend to be a bit snooty about Berlin: how can any song that popular be good? It's true that he wrote an awful lot of stinkers – for every "Alexander's Ragtime Band" there's an "Alexander's Bagpipe Band" – but even a crowd-pleaser like "White Christmas" has a chromatic phrase with a surprisingly daring melodic line.

Berlin himself shrugged off this sort of analysis: "Brahms writes music. I just write songs." Yet, while he was undoubtedly commercially minded, there is nothing contrived about his best pieces. Rather, they have the effortless quality most songwriters strive for but so few achieve. An apparently simple ballad like "Cheek to Cheek", for example, has what most lyricists would consider a daunting rhyme scheme – "eek" – yet the lines never sound as if they've been tailored to the rhymes; the thoughts fall naturally:

The cares that hang around me through the week
Seem to vanish like a gambler's lucky streak.

Because he avoided flashy, exhibitionist rhymes, he is rarely cited as one of the great lyricists. Yet he was the master of the most important element in songwriting: compression. He could set up and resolve a situation in the minimum of lines. As an exercise, lyricists sometimes try and write a second chorus to "Remember" or "All Alone", but it can't be done: Berlin has said it all.

Noël Coward called it "the potency of cheap music". Berlin, typically, put it more directly: "You Keep Coming Back Like A Song / A song that keeps saying, 'Remember'." As the singing waiter at Nigger Mike's in Chinatown moved gradually uptown, to Broadway and Beekman Place, to a summer home in the Catskills and million-dollar contracts in Hollywood, he never broke faith with the great mass of the American people.

From 'The Independent', Monday 25 September 1989

GAZETTE

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Irène Lugan, "Tin Glaze Ceramics in Spain and Portugal", 2pm.
Tate Gallery: Simon Morley, "Myth Makers: Giacometti, Rothko, Newman and Smith", 1pm.
British Museum: Susan Woodford, "Sculptures from the Parthenon: the Metopes", 11.30am.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 6.38pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1626.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales undertakes engagements in Rothesay and Renfrew.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

Professor Struther Arnott, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, St Andrews University, 64; **Mr Norman Ayrton**, theatre and opera director, 74; **Mr Ronnie Barker**, comedian and writer, 69; **Mr Bishin Bedi**, cricketer, 52; **Sir Leon Brittan QC**, a Vice-President, European Commission, 59; **Sir Colin Davis**, conductor, 71; **Mr Michael Douglas**, actor, 54; **Mr Andrew Gardner**, television newsreader, 66; **Sir Florizel Glasspole**, former Governor-General of Jamaica, 89; **General Sir Edward Jones**, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, 62; **Miss Felicity Kendal**, actress, 52; **Professor Sir William Mitchell**, physicist, 73; **Mr Chris Pond MP**, 46; **Mr Christopher Reeve**, actor, 46; **Mr Timothy Severin**, writer and explorer, 58; **Miss Vivien Stern**, Secretary-General, Penal Reform International, 57; **Commandant Daphne Swallow**, former Director of the WRNS, 66; **Mr Gareth Thomas MP**, 44; **Miss Rowena Viming**, former diplomat, 77; **Miss Barbara Walters**, television newscaster and presenter, 67; **Mr Nicholas Wood**, former President, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 50.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Jean-Philippe Rameau, composer, 1683; George Frederic Pinto, violinist and composer, 1786; Mrs Felicia Dorothea Hemans, poet, 1793; Thomas Hunt Morgan, geneticist, 1866; Sir Charles Blake Cochran, impresario, 1872; George Douglas Howard Cole, socialist and novelist, 1889; Roberto Gerhard, composer, 1896; William Harrison Faulkner, novelist, 1897; Mark Rothko (Marcus Rothkovich), painter, 1903; Dmitri Dmitriyevich Shostakovich, composer, 1906; Robert Bresson, film director, 1907.

Deaths: Philip I, the Handsome, King of Spain, 1506; Samuel Butler, poet, writer and satirist, 1680; Johann Baptist Strauss the Elder, composer, 1849; Albert Joseph Moore, decorative painter, 1893; Emily Post (Price), writer and columnist, 1960; Erich Maria Remarque, novelist, 1970; Nikolai Poliakov (Coco the Clown), 1974; Walter Pidgeon, actor, 1984.

On this day: King Harold II defeated his brother the Earl Tostig and King Harold Hardrada of Norway at the Battle of Stamford Bridge, 1066; Christopher Columbus set sail on his second voyage, 1493; the Pacific Ocean was discovered by Vasco Nuñez de Balboa, 1513; the relief of Lucknow by Havelock and Outram began, 1857; the French battleship *Liberté* exploded, causing 226 deaths in Toulon Harbour, 1911; the Battle of Loos began, 1915; the German High Commissioner in Norway set up a government with Vidkun Quisling at its head, 1940; the first transatlantic telephone cable (Newfoundland-Oban) between America and Britain came into use, 1956; in a referendum, Norway voted against joining the Common Market, 1972; the first London performance of the musical show *Stepping Out* was presented, 1984.

Today is the Feast Day of St Albert of Jerusalem, St Anacharius or Aunaire, St Ceolfrith or Geoffrey, St Finbar (Fion-Bharr) or Bairre and St Firminus of Amiens.

DINNERS

RAF Strike Command
A Ladies Guest Night was held yesterday evening at Headquarters Strike Command, Royal Air Force High Wycombe on the occasion of the retirement of Air Marshal G.A. Robertson. Air Commodore R.H.O. Johnson, Air Commodore J.I. Uprichard, Gp Capt J.A. King and Wing Cdr T.R. Bonella. Air Chief Marshal Sir John and Lady Allison received the guests. Gp Capt S.H. Anderton presided.

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Brigstocke were the hosts at a dinner held yesterday evening on board HMS *Victory*, Portsmouth Naval Base, in aid of the King George's Fund For Sailors.

FARRIERS' COMPANY

The Farriers' Company held Common Hall for Livery yesterday evening at Painters' Hall, London EC4. Mr T.F.M. Head was installed as Master of the Company. The following were elected Wardens of the Company for 1998/99:

Upper Warden, Mr R.J.Crocker; Middle Warden, Lady Graham; Renter Warden, Mr S.J. Curtis.

An Installation Service followed at St Michael Paternoster Royal, conducted by Canon Glyn Jones. A dinner was held afterwards in the Painters' Hall.

ATLANTIC COUNCIL

The Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom held a Forum Briefing yesterday at Atlantic House, London SW1. Mr James R. Huntley was the speaker. Mr Alan Lee Williams, Director, presided.

PROFESSOR PETER JEWELL

A Memorial Service for Peter Arundel Jewell BSc MA PhD, Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge 1977-98 and Emeritus Mary Marshall and Arthur Walton Professor of the Physiology of Reproduction, will be held in St John's Chapel on Saturday 10 October 1998 at 12 noon.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

anguine, *adj.*

THAT MARVELLOUS American poet Frank O'Hara (1926-1966) is, like the rather different Kipling, best read in bulk. Treasures surface unawares. However complex the thought, his vocabulary is clear, if sometimes demotic.

He can, though, pull one up, as in a rhapsodic meditation upon art and love whose narrator sings "towards you all *anguine* conebos seem to scoot". The adjective is of simple Latin origin, meaning snake-like in form. This, more nimble on the tongue than the zoological forms of *anguineal* or *anguineous*, was apparently last used, exquisitely, by Sheridan Le Fanu in 1871: "her beautiful eyebrows wore that *anguine* curve, which is the only approach to a scowl which painters accord to angels". Now, as for conebos . . .

If it's September, it must be Fashion Week. Sort of.

NEW YORK CONFIDENTIAL

TOBY YOUNG

RATHER confusingly, New York Fashion Week has been divided into two this Autumn. It was originally scheduled to take place in November after the collections in London, Milan and Paris. But in August, Helmut Lang announced that he couldn't possibly wait that long to show his Spring collection. "The energy is gone at that point, the energy is exhausted," he complained to *Women's Wear Daily* – so he would be showing in September. Not surprisingly, a number of other New York designers – Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, for example – decided to follow suit and the result is two Fashion Weeks.

One of the reasons Helmut Lang did this, according to a *Vogue* editor I spoke to, is to avoid being accused of plagiarism. Within the fashion press, apparently, the issue of who has copied whom each season comes down to which collection they see first. Of course, the idea that a designer could attend the showing of a rival's collection then rush back to his studio and rip it off in time for his show the following week is preposterous but, needless to say, fashion writers aren't the sharpest crayons in the pencil-case.

I'm not complaining, since two Fashion Weeks means twice as many parties. You can always tell when a celebrity has entered your airspace at one of these parties since the person you're talking to suddenly becomes all glassy-eyed and doesn't hear a word you're saying. Interestingly, though, they don't look over your shoulder. Among the Fashionista, it's considered so "trailer park" to gawk at celebrities that whenever one enters the room they look anywhere but straight at them. Consequently, if Leonardo DiCaprio is standing right next to you, the frisky young model you're talking to looks you directly in the eye for the first time that evening. Then she goes home with Leonardo DiCaprio.

By common consent, the best party of New York Fashion Week Part I – which took place last week – was the opening of a new Louis Vuitton shop in SoHo. Naomi Campbell announced in advance that it was the only Fashion Week party she'd be attending and sure enough, she appeared, basking in the glow of the flashbulbs. The only time it is acceptable to openly stare at celebrities is when they are being photographed since the flashbulbs leave them temporarily blinded so they can't see you gawking at them.

Almost as much excitement was caused by the appearance at the Vuitton party of Kylie Bax, the hot model of the moment. She's generating heat, strangely, partly because she's going out with Donald Trump. A fortnight ago he took her to the US Open, striding in with her on his arm in the middle of the Ladies final. Every head in the stadium turned towards him and someone shouted, "Hey Donald, who's the blonde?"

THE number one film at the US box office last week was a comedy thriller starring Matt Damon and Ed Norton called *Rounders*. For reasons I can't quite explain, I find it very irritating that a Hollywood studio has the confidence to release a film with that title without fearing that it might be mistaken for a film about... well, rounders. After all, it's inconceivable that a British company would release a film called *Baseball* if it wasn't, in fact, about baseball.

Apparently, the film's title refers to a slang term favoured by poker players to describe professional gamblers who make the rounds from game to game. At least, that is what it's supposed to refer to. The *New York Post* interviewed a number of veteran poker players who'd never heard of the term. In fact, nearly all the slang bandied about in the film turns out to be highly suspect. As a professional card-sharp told the *Post*, "In one scene, the Ed Norton character says something like, 'After the finger, that leaves the white meat'. No one speaks like that. If anyone said something like that, we'd say, 'Huh? What the hell are you talking about?'"

AT ONE of the Fashion Week parties I attended I was accosted by two gorgeous models making a documentary about Brits in New York. They turned out to be Tess Daly, a 27-year-old blonde from Cheshire, and Orla O'Rourke, a 25-year-old redhead from County Tyrone. If Austin Powers had been at the party, these girls would have been on his arm. A few minutes earlier they'd interviewed Geoffrey Ling, the British Consul General in New York. He quite properly asked them if they had work permits then, rather less properly, invited them both to a party at the British Consulate. There's hope for the old country yet.

ONE OF the wonderful things about living in America is that when the country is gripped by a big news story – such as the Clinton scandal – people actually stand around on street corners discussing it. I encountered one such town meeting on my way back from the post office recently.

"What's all this stuff about him s'posed to be setting an example?" I heard one black lady say to another, presumably about the President. "I never exampled myself on anyone but myself."

Hitting them while they are still young – is this the right way to instil obedience? *Ron Bull*

Smack addicts

Europe has ruled against parents' right to smack, yet the Government refuses to outlaw physical punishment. Where do we go from here? By **Philip Hodson**

Last November, a young English boy protested to the highest court in the land that his stepfather had no right to cane him. During his trial, it was noted that the beatings had been frequent and "hurt a lot, particularly when he was beaten on the legs". He was severely bruised and had several linear scars. He was repeatedly beaten between the ages of five and eight. As expected, this week the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg found in his favour.

The problem for British parents is: what happens next? One of the most perplexed appears to be Paul Boateng, father-of-five and Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Health. He gave an undertaking last March that the Government would adopt the European Court ruling as final. He promised that our domestic law would be brought in to line with the general trend where at least eight other European countries, including Austria and most of Scandinavia, have already outlawed the corporal punishment of children. Since July, such punishment has also been banned in British schools by the School Standards and Framework Act.

You might think that today, Mr Boateng would proudly be announcing the death by law of ALL violent parental chastisement in Britain. A recent pamphlet from Boateng's own department had said: "It's never OK to shake or smack a baby." Of course, you'd be wrong. With William Hague and the Tories screaming about Euro interference, what you actually find is Mr Boateng's department defending a parent's right to smack to their heart's content, just so long as they don't use an "implement". We are told that "smacking has a place within parental discipline and our law will not be changed to outlaw smacking".

This is totally confusing for the rest of us, both parents and children alike. It was hoped that the ruling would mark a change in the culture of British childcare which, at present, by the Government's own research, results in a fifth of children under 16 being hit with implements and three quarters of babies being smacked in the first year of life. What Mr Boateng has now done is the equivalent of introducing a drink-drive law which says it's all right to drive a car so long as you're only two-thirds tipsy. On the one hand, Mr Boateng is telling parents that you may smack as hard as you want. On the other, he's saying that, if like the father of Dennis the Menace, you take a slipper to your son's backside, you may be prosecuted for assault.

Hitting children is a mistake, yet here is the Government giving the oxygen of approval to our worst instincts

I understand that frustrated parents sometimes lose their rag. I've done it. My teachers did the same. But we know that hitting children only causes resentment and inculcates a philosophy that "might is right". Hitting your child is only justifiable on the basis that it was a mistake in the first place and that you make amends afterwards. You try to learn from your mistakes. Yet here's the Government giving the oxygen of approval to our worst instincts.

This is all the more serious because a concerted family values campaign already exists to promote parental violence which may become abusive. Perhaps you're prepared to overlook the odd smacking of a 10-year-old by frustrated parents. It gets more difficult when you see the colour photographs of the bruises and broken skin. But what should the Government do about those who advocate the beating of babies?

Earlier this month, self-styled parenting gurus, Gary and Anne-Marie Ezzo, flew into Britain from California to preach their gospel of childcare. Since the mid-1990s, they claim to have "educated" more than 1.5 million parents worldwide. In America, they run a profitable business called "Growing Families International". They present a radio show and peddle a 17-cassette audio-pack. But their special message for parents boils down to: they want you to beat your kids, even babies as young as 14 months and children up to 40 months, with a ritual rod or "implement".

Like Jesuits, the Ezzos favour early propaganda. They believe that "hitting 'em while still young" is the only way to instill "lifetime obedience". Parents are even told they can expect "first-time compliance" to their orders. This means that if you command your two-year-old to stop playing in the cupboard and he says "I haven't finished yet", you march him upstairs for a beating.

Gary and Anne-Marie explain that smacking by hand is unsuccessful because it lacks sufficient "sting". You have to use an "instrument". "Don't use a wooden spoon," they say. "It doesn't have enough 'flex'. You need an instrument that has 'flex'. The goal is to produce a high sting. The tissue must absorb the impact. Only this produces the type of pain that re-directs the child's attention." Then the loving personal touch: "In our household, we use a piece of vinyl leather 10-12 inches long, an inch-and-a-half wide and a quarter-inch thick. This produces a sting but doesn't cause damage."

Avoiding damage is a high priority for Gary and Anne-Marie. "If the instrument is too heavy, it will leave marks; if it's too light, it will be meaningless." In case of doubt, they say, "anything that cuts the skin is too heavy". They make a light-hearted reference to nobody wanting the social services getting involved.

In classic cases of abuse, the violator always seeks to isolate the victim. The idea is to rule out witnesses. By an insidious parallel, this is exactly what the Ezzos do. While claiming to be protectors, they advise: "Don't beat in front of other adults. Don't beat in front of other children. If Gran and Grandma come over, don't do it in front of them. Rarely do it in front of other siblings. And don't do it on bare skin." But what if it's a baby? "With a toddler in a diaper you may have to pull off the diaper and hit just below the diaper line." Or if it's a well-covered girl? "Suppose there's a corduroy skirt that you can't get through, then you may have to drop that down a little bit too."

Anne-Marie even describes her favourite method of pinning down a child (a difficult phrase in Britain after the Beck scandal) while delivering chastisement. "To keep your kids still, cross your ankles then put their little legs between your legs and that way you won't miss. Then take their little hands and hold them out here – I'm talking one, two- and three-year-olds – then their little bottoms are right there and you won't miss".

You don't have to be Freud to see that these people are seriously deluded. When they claim that beating a child for them is an "act of love", you wonder what they mean. Self-righteous relish drips from their spanking descriptions. In classic abuse, the truth does a headstand. Confront a paedophile and he'll say "kids like being touched up". How bizarre to find the Ezzo's using a similar construction.

The dangers are clear-cut. We do not live in a society where parents are always right. We live in a society where children need to think for themselves. We need to live in a society where children are free to grow without emotional and physical abuse – not to mention the risk of being turned into adults who will probably take sexual pleasure from pain. There is research showing that spanking by parents causes anti-social behaviour in children. It's not enough that Mr Boateng sits on the fence to defend the old brutal culture. He has an opportunity to think again and improve the culture. With the new ruling from Strasbourg, the Home Office should not only prosecute abusive parents but also deport their vile mentors.

Phillip Hodson is a fellow of the British Association for Counselling

No, really, it's funny

Actors, particularly comic actors, often fail dismally at writing novels, but Nigel Planer can prove he's the right man for the job. By **Peter Stanford**

There is a scene early in Nigel Planer's forthcoming first novel, *The Right Man*, when Neil James, a sitcom actor with his one big role already behind him, sends a draft of a book he has written to his agent. "Not another novel by a TV comedian," is the agent's reaction. "A funny thing seems to happen as soon as somebody gets successful in a certain field in this business," he muses. "They set about seeing how grandly they can fail in other fields."

The whiff of autobiography – Planer freely admits that he has yet to live down his pigeon-holing in the public's mind as Neil the Hippy in *The Young Ones* – gets stronger when Neil James even borrows Planer's title for his novel. And the milieu of *The Right Man* – the real fictional Right Man this is, not the fictional fictional one – is surely a give-away. It is set in the world of actors and television.

The autumn publishing schedules are packed with stars of stage and screen reworking their daily lives into what Sebastian Faulks has recently dismissed as, "these things that pass for novels". His gripe is, presumably, that the plots of books like Richard E Grant's *By Design*, Eric Idle's *The Road to Mars* and Alan Titchmarsh's *Mr MacGregor*, are a cross between autobiography and wish fulfilment. So Titchmarsh's hero is a gardening show presenter who is also a national pin-up and Grant's romp is peopled by movie stars and set in Hollywood.

Planer has heard the unflattering comparisons. *The Right Man* may well, he acknowledges, be dismissed as another celebrity novel by a fading star with too much time on his hands. He shrugs and lights another roll-up. His mouth, already down-turned, giving his face its trademark hang-dog expression, purses. "I hope mine won't be seen as simply another comic novel. It comes out as more like an appeal than a statement. I mean, it's a pretty bleak story, don't you think? It's funny on the way, of course – I read it out loud and there were some funny bits."

It conjures up an odd picture of Planer, tall, hair-line slightly receding, striding round the Thames houseboat that is his home, reading his own book out loud to himself. In some of the current crop of actor-writers, you might put it down to arrogance, getting off on their own prose. But with Planer, there's an element of lack of confidence too. The novel has gone through several last minute redrafts, and we spend 10 minutes working out which version of the story I have read.

Such concern gives a clue that he takes his writing seriously. But then, he's an actor, and perhaps he's playing up his role as an author, just as his small-screen creation, Nicholas Craig, became the consummate thespian in *I, An Actor*. Yet there are reasons for rejecting the stereotype of the bored celeb, filling his coffers with a variation on the theme of his personal diary.

For a start, Planer's acting career is going very nicely. He has just finished a well-received spell in the West End in the musical *Chicago*, and had returned to London on the morning we met, from filming *The Grimleys*, a new Channel 4 series, set in Birmingham in the mid Seventies.

> *My novel is a bleak story, but funny on the way – I read it out loud and there were some funny bits*

Then, there is his already quite presentable bibliography. His account of the "true confusions of fatherhood", *A Good Enough Dad*, was a best-seller. He then penned a humorous how-to guide on therapy and divorce, and has published a collection of poetry and a short story.

One of the classic giveaways of the dilettante novelist, the moonlighting actors and comedians, is their total ignorance of literature. Since penning a book is for them little more than writing a long fan letter, they don't feel the need to learn from past masters and contemporary exponents of the craft. If pushed, a couple of episodes of *Inspector Morse*, and a week's worth of *The Bill*, is enough to grasp the vitals of settings and plot.

Planer, by contrast, turns out to be something of a bookworm, J G Ballard, Malcolm Bradbury, Peter Ackroyd, and even the medieval mystic Margery Kempe, all float into the conversation. He haunts second-hand bookshops. Writing, he admits, has become an obsession. "The most truly autobiographical element in my novel comes because I can't make a division between what I'm writing about and what my obsessions are."

His current obsession is the fate of dads. Indeed, Planer is in danger of becoming the patron saint of well-meaning fathers. That certainly was the effect of *A Good Enough Dad*, and led to him receiving requests from women wanting to know how they could make their partners nicer and cuddlier. Then came his own divorce and so, with *The Right Man*, he adds wronged dads to his portfolio.

Guy Mullin, Neil James's agent, and the central character of the novel, has tried to do the right thing by his wife and daughter, and indeed by his female colleagues. But one by one, they desert him. His wife runs off with a divorce lawyer. His business partner leaves him bankrupt, and even the aspiring actress who gives Mullin "a merry fuck" is only interested in what stage work her act of largess will yield.

While *The Right Man* is set in Planer's professional world, what is intriguing is how far it parallels his private world. Has he fallen into the trap of most first-time novelists – of writing about his own anguish?

"There is an overlap between me and Guy, but I'm not in the situation he's in. I have, comparatively, a successful separation. My son lives with me a third of the year. I don't have Guy's problems, but I have those fears. I realise how unimportant fathers are before the law."

This potentially puts *The Right Man* into a different league from the Richard E Grants and Alan Titchmarshes. Ben Elton, for instance, has won plaudits for novels like *Popcorn*, which tackle social issues, like the origins of violence.

If Planer's novel becomes a *cause celebre* for sidelined dads, part of a male backlash, then he could just have a second career on his hands as a writer – and even a third as a spokesman for an all-male constituency. He has, he admits, been to men's groups, men's weekends, and even a Families Need Fathers meeting. And, in keeping with the generally ironic tone of *The Right Man*, it would give the lie to Guy Mullin's confident prediction that television comedians can only fail grandly when they wander into the field of fiction.

'The Right Man' is published by Hutchinson on 1 October

Nigel Planer's new novel champions fathers caught in broken relationships *Phil Meech*

Superman's secret weapon

Film special-effects legend Roy Wood is still going strong. By **Andy Zneimer**

FOR CENTURIES, man has dreamt of flying – we all know what happened to poor Icarus. It took cinema special-effects legend Roy Field to realise the dream. In 1976, he lifted Superman from the pages of a DC Comics book, straight into the sky. Without him, filmgoers may never have heard those immortal words, "Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Superman".

"The director of *Superman* gave me the task of making people actually believe that a man could fly," explains Field on the set of *Lighthouse*, a British movie currently being filmed in London. "The interesting thing was that Christopher Reeve was a glider pilot and instinctively knew how to angle his body, how to bank, for instance. We used that to enhance the flying."

Field and his team, including his one-time mentor and the godfather of special effects, Les Bowie – with whom Field collaborated in his early days at Hammer Films on titles that include Quatermass Experiment – were awarded the Oscar for their work. "I used an effect known as 'Blue Screen' for those sequences – a technique I'd been using for some 20 years during my time at Pinewood," Field explains. "Today, we have digital computers but when I started out, it was all done optically."

Field is still a busy man. He's just completed two episodes of *Hornblower*, a new TV series based on CS Forester's book. Most of the work was done at "the tank" at Pinewood. "*Hornblower* was pretty dramatic as far as effects were concerned," says Field, "plenty of sinking of model ships and loud, violent battle sequences with live gunpowder recreated. The decks were shrouded in smoke most of the time and we had to intercut the tank work with shots of cannonballs hitting masts and big guns firing."

His latest project is to oversee the special effects in *Lighthouse*, a low-budget chiller-thriller. Its director, 29-year-old Simon Hunter, explains: "Roy has so much experience. The challenge is to make a lighthouse seem to be in the middle of the ocean, miles from nowhere."

"We're using just about every technique I can think of," says Field. "There's a sequence in which some of the characters are hanging over the edge of the lighthouse on ropes. The background will be a real sea, 120ft below. "For 17 years, from 1959 until he arrived in Hollywood to work on *Superman*, Field was employed as a Visual Effects Supervisor for Rank. His expertise was required on the first seven James Bond movies.

"I think *Goldfinger* was the most challenging of all, particularly the sequence when 007 breaks into Fort Knox using the same laser that nearly cuts him in half," says Field, "And of course there was *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*".

Field is one of that rare breed of postwar, British behind-the-scenes film-makers. *Lighthouse* may be Field's cinematic swansong. But it's a tribute to his adaptability that he has managed to remain in the glare of the spotlights for so long. Unlike Icarus.

'Hornblower' begins on 7 October, at 8pm, on ITV

Power play on a lonely isle

THEATRE

UNE TEMPETE
THE GATE
LONDON

WHEN DID you last see a black actor playing Caliban? It isn't, admittedly, as much of a rarity as the sight of a white actor playing Othello, but the infrequency may be a sign that the colonialist implications of *The Tempest* have tended to be downplayed in favour of stressing other themes – power, and limitations of art.

The casting of black actors, both as Caliban and as Ariel, is crucial, though, to *Une Tempête*, a radical rewriting of Shakespeare's last play, proffered now from Caliban's perspective, by Aimé Césaire, the French-West Indian poet, politician, and coiner of the term "negritude".

First published in 1968, the piece receives its British premiere now, in a stylish, funny and astringent production by Mick Gordon at The Gate.

Some years back, Jonathan Miller made a striking feature of race in a staging of *The Tempest*, which presented Ariel and Caliban as examples of the different responses among tribes, in countries like Nigeria, to paternalist white authority. Ariel was the educated, westernised ironist, playing along, learning all the skills, and poised to seize control the moment the oppressor vacated the island. Picking up and repairing Prospero's broken staff at the end, he was clearly anticipating a future where his tribe would wield power over the island's Calibans, whom colonialism had demoralised.

In *Une Tempête*, the differences between the two characters are ideological and highly conscious, as well as a matter of temperament. Broadly speaking, Césaire's play duplicates the action of the original, but he invents a central theme where Ariel and Caliban argue over what is the best strategy for achieving freedom. Facing down charges of Uncle Tomism, Michael Wildman's slender, sensitive Ariel insists that it is only by creating a conscience in Prospero, thus paradoxically including the slave driver in the liberation, that they will achieve their ends. Andrew Dennis's imposing, sardonic Caliban jeers that it would be about as sensible to wait for a rock to burst into flower. "I want freedom now," he proclaims. If that has a familiar ring as the slogan of the Black Power movement, then the sequence in which Caliban contemptuously informs Prospero that he wishes to be called "X", "like a man without a name – or, more precisely, like a man who has had his name stolen", specifically identifies the character with Malcolm X.

Michael Wildman and Andrew Dennis *Pau Ros*

Of course, Shakespeare's Tempest contains its own critique of Prospero, and its complex characterisation of Caliban anticipates the revisionists' own game. But Césaire takes the questioning much further.

For example, the rape charge against Caliban becomes, in this version, the foisting of Prospero's own illicit sexual urges on a scapegoat – the kind of kinky white fantasies of the black man that give rise to schlock plantation novels.

Mick Gordon's production plays some delightfully witty tricks with scale (there's a miniature beachscape with a lightbulb sun and a tray of sand which Ferdinand is obliged to smooth with a spoon-sized hoe). It also expertly sustains the brisk, jokey tone which *Une Tempête* adopts when guying large areas of the original.

Looking a touch like Oliver Hardy, and burbling drunken nonsense in the august, bass tones of someone covering a coronation, Mike Hayley is quite the funniest Stefano I've ever seen.

Altogether, an auspicious start for Gordon's regime as The Gate's artistic director.

To 14 October: 0171-229 5387

PAUL TAYLOR

Evolving the human condition

Forget divine inspiration in the arts – in fact, forget divine. E O Wilson has a theory that art and religion are the products of Darwinian natural selection, and he makes a pretty good case for it. By Steve Connor

Edward O Wilson can claim membership of a unique club. The distinguished American biologist is one of the few atheists who has read the Bible from cover to cover – twice. Admittedly, he did this more than 50 years ago, when his devout religious beliefs were fortified with youthful vigour. Since then, his views on the possibility of a higher authority have undergone as radical a transformation as those of Charles Darwin, who famously became a non-believer after realising that his theory of evolution by natural selection had no need for a Creator. Wilson and Darwin, however, have a good deal more in common than their religious ambivalence.

E O Wilson is probably the world's greatest authority on ants. He is currently engrossed in a project to classify a group of ants which accounts for something like 20 per cent of the ant species living in the western hemisphere. Darwin too spent most of his time laboriously itemising and classifying what many people would describe as low life (one of Darwin's particular interests was the earthworm). And, like Darwin, Wilson is famous for a Big Idea that goes far beyond his own rarefied line of research.

Wilson, an emeritus professor at Harvard University, is the father of sociobiology, the title of his book published in 1975, in which he attempted to explain how the social behaviour of animals – including humans – can be shaped by evolution. His critics, like those of Darwin, vilified him, not so much for his arguments, but for what it meant about the human condition. Could we be simply the result of the blind forces of natural selection?

Wilson became a figure of hate and ridicule. The "ant man" was advised to stick to his six-legged friends, and not attempt to dabble in the higher arts. An understanding of Darwinian evolution from the perspective of an ant's minute brain, is no qualification for comprehending the almost mystical nature of the human condition, they said. Wilson's critics labelled him the arch reductionist, who put genetic determinism above free will. He championed brutish nature, but they knew it was sympathetic nurture that really mattered.

Anyone who has read Wilson's books would find it hard to understand why he has generated so much venom. His descriptions of the life and behaviour of the animals he has studied betray a deep love of creatures that many of us would dismiss as the creepy, the crawly and the downright nasty. He has remarked, in his wry way, how most people who enter a rain forest for the first time look up in wonder. He, however, is more likely to be seen crouching on all fours studying the bugs who make a home under the leaves of the forest floor.

Edward O Wilson has upset a lot of people with his radical views on human evolutionary psychology *Neville Elder*

He is probably the greatest expert writer of natural history alive today, just as Darwin was the best in his day. Any scientist, he says, who wants to have a full quiver to his talents must be able to write "like a journalist". Wilson goes one better than this, because he writes with his heart as well as his brain. So why do people like Roy Porter, the eminent science historian, denounce Wilson as a "champion of scientific imperialism" with the breathtaking presumptuousness to claim that "all must kneel before science's throne".

The answer, it seems, is Wilson's latest book, *Consilience: the Unity of Knowledge*, published this week. It is an attempt to bring together several strands of ideas, facts and information into a unified whole. "It means the interlocking of cause-and-effect explanations across the disciplines," he drawls, in the distinctive tones he has retained from his southern Alabama childhood. "To say that consilience is the mother's milk of the natural sciences is not an exaggeration."

Wilson upsets people because of his resolute belief that much of human behaviour can be explained by our evolutionary history – 20 years ago it was called sociobiology, now it is termed evolutionary psychology, and has become a regular subject of debate at the London School of Economics. Scientific inquiry, and biology in particular, is on the verge of exploring the "borderland" area between the natural and social sciences, he says. Wilson sees consilience as the weaving together of the disparate threads of human knowledge into a new synthesis.

Take the way humans see colours, and what this tells us about how and why we create, and indeed appreciate, art: "We know from experiments that people tend to invent and place colour terms in the least ambiguous parts of the colour spectrum." He supports what he says with the evidence that not every ethnic group has a rich array of terms to describe colour. Languages with only two basic colour terms invariably use them to distinguish black from white, those with three words use them to describe black, white and red, those with four describe black, white, red, and either green or yellow, and so on. In other words, our language and culture is ultimately influenced by how our eyes and the visual centres of the brain are conditioned to perceive the world around us.

The same goes for visual complexity, which Wilson says is instrumental in determining how pleasing a particular painting is perceived. "There is an optimum level of complexity in visual representation, equivalent to a maze of about 10 or 20 turns. This gives maximum arousal."

The point Wilson is making is that art, like any other sphere of human activity, can be traced back to our biological past, just as much as its roots can be found in our cultural history. Art, he says, is quite definitely the product of natural selection. Those early humans who first practised it continued to do so, because it gave them an advantage over other early hominids. "We utilise art to enhance experience, to enhance display, and to gain control with powerful representation of the world around us. It's easy to see where art comes from because, if you look around the world, you see it in stones and the shape of a tree."

Flowers, for example, are much loved in art, and in life, and when asked why, most people would say "because they are beautiful". But why should flowers be beautiful? The answer is that, for a fruit-eating primate, the presence of flowers provide a strong signal of future benefits. "Flowers represent the fruitfulness of the environment. It would be a very wise strategy to be attracted to them," he says.

If art has its roots in evolution, can religious belief also be the product of natural selection? Some evolutionists have seriously proposed that religiosity is the need to believe in order to survive.

Wilson says that it might just be possible for cosmologists to find evidence of a higher authority, but in terms of life on Earth, the explanation is easy to see: "The only way to make sense out of it, is evolution by self assembly. When you try to think of it otherwise, the explanations become extraneous. I have no need of that hypothesis, of a creator or a designer. It makes so much more sense to be self assembled."

STARS AND PLANETS: OCTOBER

ALTHOUGH SUMMER is officially over – the Autumn Equinox took place in the small hours of 23 September – the three prominent stars of the "Summer Triangle" ride high in October's skies. At its apex is pure-white Vega, brightest star in the tiny constellation of Lyra – the lyre. Look between its two end stars with a moderate telescope and you'll see an amazing sight: a small yet perfectly-formed cosmic smoke ring.

The Ring Nebula is a "planetary nebula" – not the most appropriate nomenclature, because these celestial puffs of smoke have nothing to do with planets. They were first recognised as a distinct group by William Herschel, who discovered the planet Uranus in 1781. He was struck by the similarity of their appearance to that of dim planets.

A planetary nebula is a sign that a star is on the way out. Although it's popularly supposed that stars explode when they die, the vast majority – more than 95% – go with a whimper rather than a bang. According to Sun Kwok of the University of Calgary, "Planetary nebulae can be considered a Sun-like star's last hurrah". The fireworks of supernova detonation are only for massive stars.

When a star like the Sun reaches the end of its life, it expands into a huge, distended red giant – Aldebaran, now rising in the east, is one such example. Like a cosmic blancmange, the star has very little control over its extremities, and it wobbles about. Planetary nebulae were once thought to be the abruptly-ejected atmospheres of these red giants. But new research by Kwok and his team, in particular with the Hubble Space Telescope, has shed new light on their origins.

In its last 10,000 years (equivalent to the last few hours of a human lifetime), a red giant star begins to lose mass very rapidly. Gas pours off the stars at a rate of a hundred-thousandth of a solar mass a year. By comparison, the Sun loses a hundred-trillionth of its mass per year. Some stars eject so much matter that they are completely obscured by a circumstellar shell of gas and dust (cosmic "soot").

These initial shells of ejected matter around the red giant form a "protoplanetary nebula". This is relatively cool, and only visible in the reflected light from its central star. But then things hot up – literally. The more the red giant boils away, the more its hot core is exposed – and this heats up the ejected matter like gas in a neon tube, making it glow. This "ionised" ejecta is a planetary nebula.

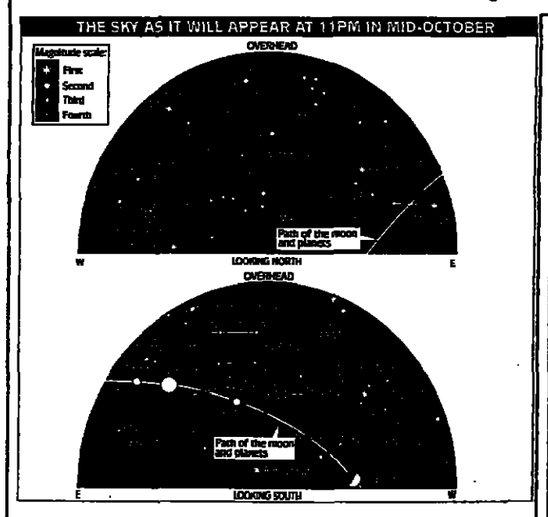
While protoplanetary nebulae are usually symmetrical, mature planetaries are often bipolar, comprising two distinct blobs. Sun Kwok thinks that this is caused by superfast stellar winds boiling off the hot core. His calculations show that any asymmetries in the envelope of ejecta can amplify the winds, allowing them to punch holes which lead to the characteristic double shape. Other astronomers believe that the asymmetries are generated by the presence of unseen companion stars, or even planets.

Planetary nebulae are the butterflies of the cosmos. Beautiful, insubstantial and ephemeral, they last only 10,000 years. In the end, they drift away to reveal the exposed core of the once-mighty red giant – a tiny white dwarf that slowly leaks away all its heat into space. In five billion years time, this will also be the fate of our Sun. Our distant descendants, having fled the Earth during the Sun's red giant era, will look back at the gently evaporating "ring nebula" that marks the death of our own Solar System.

WHAT'S UP: Saturn is at its closest to Earth on 23 October. A small telescope will show its famous rings and the largest moon, Titan, which orbits Saturn every 16 days. The ringed planet is the fainter of two giant worlds on show in the late evening: Jupiter shines more brilliantly to its right. Use binoculars to spot its four biggest moons. In the morning sky, Mars is climbing in the east.

We may be in for some shooting stars from an old comet, Giacobini-Zinner, on 8 October: this shower is usually weak, but may be due for a revival in 1998 as the comet itself is comparatively nearby. More reliable is the Orionid meteor shower – debris shed long ago by Halley's Comet – on 21 October.

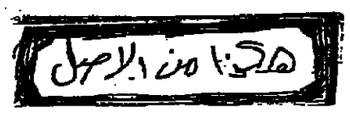
THE SKY AS IT WILL APPEAR AT 11PM IN MID-OCTOBER



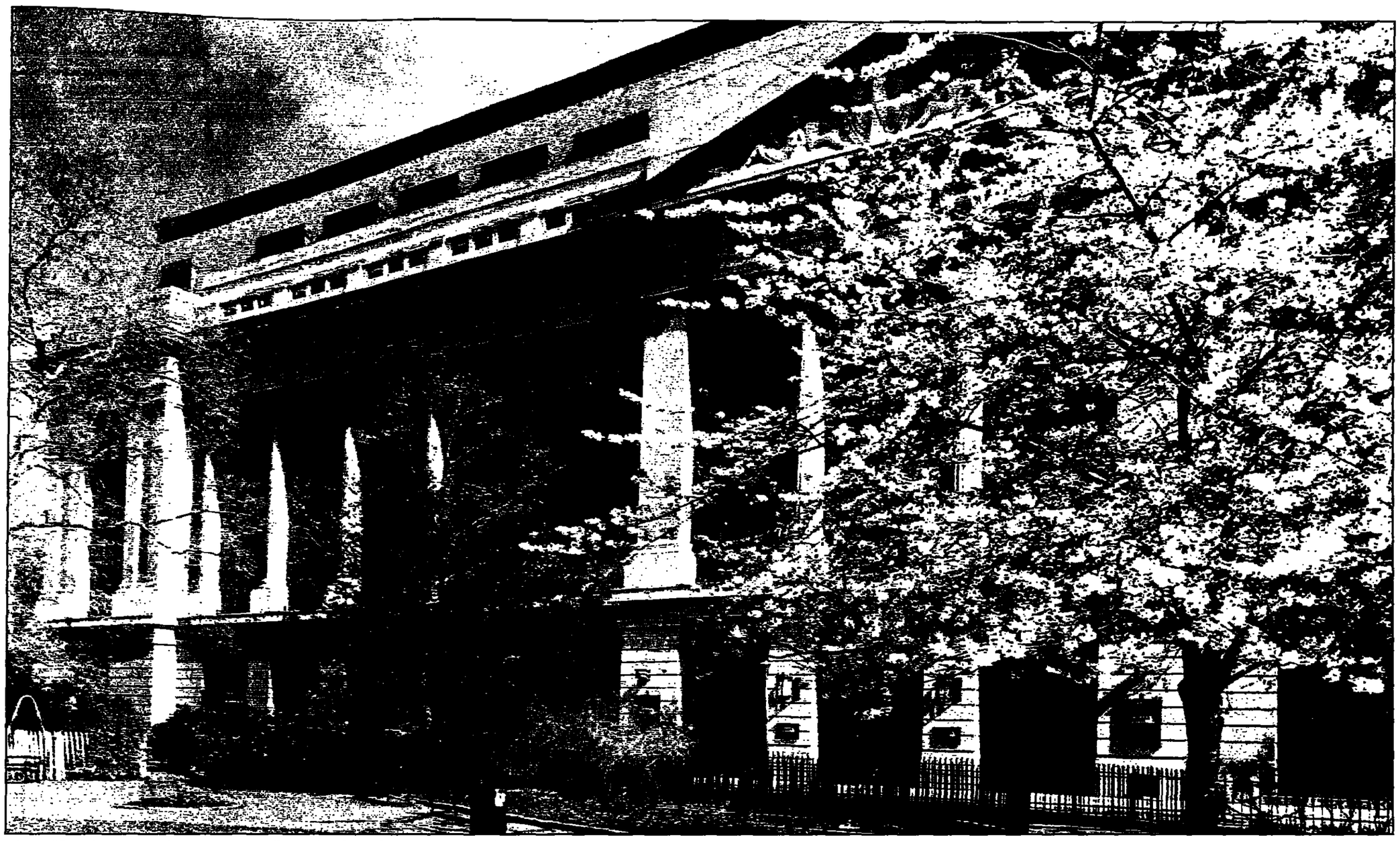
DIARY

(BST until 25 October)

5th	9.12 pm	full moon
8th		Maximum of Giacobinid meteor shower
12th	12.11pm	moon at last quarter
20th	11.10am	new moon
21st		Maximum of Orionid meteor shower
23rd		Saturn at opposition
25th		British Summer Time ends
28th	11.46am	moon at first quarter

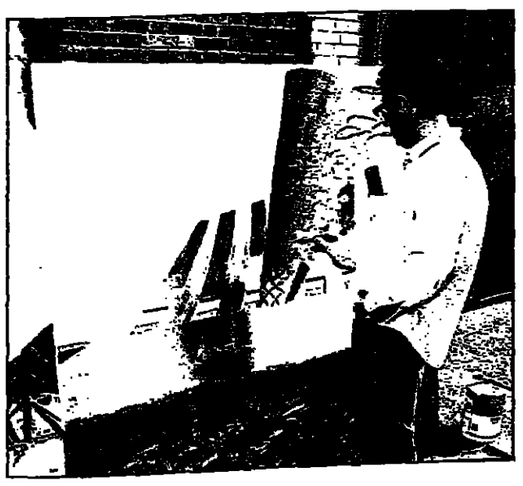


Is this the new GLA building? It looks as though the future Mayor of London will be among the Bloomsbury set. By **Nonie Niesewand**



Above: Victoria House – the new Mansion House in Bloomsbury? Below left, from top: Will Alsop, whose design for a future Mayor's Assembly caught the Minister's eye. He has now been given the commission for Victoria House; Piers Gough and his inverted cone – 'like a cornet waiting for the ice-cream'; Eva Jiricna's reflective work in foil – she says the Mayor doesn't need a building at all *Artist photographs by Tony Buckingham*

What will Jeffrey Archer say?



On Saturday, Will Alsop went down to the Thames waterfront at Gabriel's Wharf to paint on canvas – live – his thoughts about the future Mayor of London's home and assembly. This week, his colourful sploshes have landed him the commission to design the interiors for one of seven real-life locations shortlisted for development by the Minister for London.

Blackfriars Developments were so impressed by his concept that they fired the architects who had already begun the interior re-fit, in order to get Alsop inside their listed building. Their choice for the new Mansion House, Victoria House in Bloomsbury which was built in 1924, is strongly tipped to be the future Mayor's home. From its WC1 postcode alone, Victoria House is easily the best location on the shortlist.

Two exhibitions, hanging side by side at the capital's Oxo Tower Gallery, illustrate the cross-fertilisation of ideas for a new building to house the Greater London Authority. "Masterclass 98" features six canvases from six architects – Will Alsop, Edward Cullinnan, Piers Gough, Eva Jiricna, Jeremy Dixon and Edward Jones and Tony Fretton – who were given just six hours to come up with ideas for the Greater London Authority Building.

In an adjacent gallery is an exhibition of seven locations for the future Mayor of London's HQ, shortlisted by the Minister for London, Nick Raynsford. The developers of the sites have presented their ideas for the building to canvas Londoners' opinions. In six weeks' time, the Minister will announce a shortlist of two or three for the next round.

Never mind who is going to be mayor of London. Where he, or she, will be based with 25 members of the Assembly looks like being an even more controversial question. London may be a cultural trailblazer, bursting with new ideas and youthful icons of art, pop, fashion, food and film, but the Mayor's headquarters has to send out the right message about governance of the capital. All eyes are off the Dome for the moment, and expectations are focused on the Ministry for London to find a home for the new Mayor and Assembly that not only reflects the spirit of the times, but creates a coherent civic identity.

The assembly building must be accessible and easily reached by public transport, as well as not being seen to be off-putting. It must unite north and south London as well as east and west. Worse, it has to be procured on leasehold for just 15 years, which means that the Government has to work with property developers to find the right site.

When Donald Dewar, the Minister for Scotland, had to find a location for the Scottish Parliament, he involved architects. At first he commissioned feasibility studies on Edinburgh locations and then, at the last minute, found an entirely new location in Edinburgh before putting out on open competition the brief to design the new Parliament.

Never mind who is going to be the new Mayor of London. Where he, or she, will be based with 25 members of the Assembly looks like being an even more controversial question

Nick Raynsford has no wish to get into that sort of architectural jump-off for a leasehold building. There is no shortage of potentially prestigious buildings, thanks to corporate belt tightening – the empty Shell HQ is on a prime riverfront site – but this made his task more difficult, owing to the cultural baggage that accompanies a civic centre for the Mayor.

As the client in a real estate deal, the Minister went to estate agents Knight, Frank & Rutley and got them to sleuth six locations, tactfully dotted along both sides of the Thames from Vauxhall to London's docklands. They are at Canary Wharf, E14; London Bridge City Road, SE1; Regent's Place, Euston Road, NW1; Vauxhall Cross, SE11; Wilton Road, SW1; all of which require new buildings on site, and also Camelford House, SE11; and Victoria House, Bloomsbury Square, WC1, both existing buildings that require refurbishment.

Camelford House is to get a sail in the foyer and some potted plants; Victoria House was going to get a Sixties-type conversion to the blandly lit, homogenous anonymity that passes for good design in the US – until Blackfriars Developments saw the light and got Will Alsop on board.

New buildings proposed for the four other sites by the developers are not much better. What sort of Mayor would move into the shimmering, Saatchi-style gloss and glamour of a new glass building by Munkenbeck and Marshall near Victoria Station?

It's handsome, but it doesn't send out the right vibes. Terry Farrell's new building proposal for Canary Wharf is in an unusually sober and restrained mood – as befits the pomp and circumstance of the Mayoral office – which is a shame, because that is one of the few sites that matches Farrell's exuberance.

Foster Associates' new building for London Bridge City Road was knocked off in such a hurry that they show, in section, two completely different versions of the same building – one with a curved stern and prow, the other with the stern straightened. The Regents Park project has a nicely rounded glass house by Shepherd Robson, nestling into view from the Euston road.

More imaginative ideas, but bound to get the controversy going, are hanging in "Masterclass 98". Apart from showing what good sports they are, Piers Gough, Edward Cullinan, Jeremy Dixon with Edward Jones, Tony Fretton, Eva Jiricna and Will Alsop prove that you do need an architectural debate to find out how local government should be seen to be done.

Jeremy Dixon and Ed Jones junked the hypothetical site at Gabriel's Wharf proposed by the organisers, *Architecture Today*, to build an hierarchical tower block jutting into the Thames at Hungerford Bridge. Tony Fretton left the canvas blank, in a very conceptual, Jay Jopling White Cube manner, as a background to computer-aided designs and some exquisite white paper models of his low-lying transparent riverfront building, which allows passers-by on a public footpath to glimpse Ken Livingstone frying his fish, or tending to them.

Residents mix with politicians. Mayoral life is a beach in Piers Gough's ice-cream cone, painted purple, with photovoltaic cells to store sunlight dripping from its south-facing side. Typically, the building hides function in fun packaging. The assembly is stored in the base of the inverted cone while the public are let loose on the Thamesside beach created by the building.

Gough brought his own gold paint to give it a little glitter. Edward Cullinan went for the big statement with an hierarchical tower that places the mayor's overnight accommodation below the penthouse suite, where the public gallery has the best views across London. Will Alsop gave the mayor something to think about with a garden of contemplation "in the vain hope that wise decisions will be made" atop an invitingly open and layered building, rather like a club sandwich, with the politicians in the middle fed by the administrators and informed by the public.

Eva Jiricna's exercise in narcissism involved covering her canvas with reflective silver foil, collaged with black-and-white photographs of lips and faces. It's her in-your-face way of confronting us with her notion that the Mayor doesn't need a building at all: "In fact it would be harmful to the democratic process." Democracy in the digital age means screens to mirror on-line what happens on street corners and inside assembly rooms. To her, the idea of a special landmark building for the mayor is as dead as the gold chain which comes with the office. In this, she may be closer to Nick Raynsford's thinking than she realises.

As the Minister for London himself says: "Nothing is writ in stone. At this stage we are searching for the site and identifying the best one, and using both exhibitions for a cross-fertilisation of ideas. There are ways in which we can get what we want. I haven't ruled out changing the key players on any one of the chosen sites." But will the property developers listen to this?

"Oh yes, I think so." Nick Raynsford openly marked Will Alsop's card: "He did le Grande Bleue for local administration in Marseilles, and has a very strong track record of public buildings."

In Marseilles, the city council and regional government officials love going to work in an egg painted bright blue by Alsop, and not least because it is ecologically sound.

So a makeover by Alsop of staid old Victoria House, built 74 years ago with a rather hierarchical occupation – "even certain lavatories may only used by certain people" – looks like being the winner. Watch this space.

THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Independent 25 September 1998

Fifty years at the cutting edge

You're more familiar with David Mellor's designs than you think. He's produced everything from cutlery in Conran restaurants to traffic lights. A new retrospective at the Design Museum highlights a half century of his work. By Nonie Niesewand

Pride, like Modesty, or Humility is an old- fashioned grace, not really rated by the Prozac generation. But the David Mellor Retrospective, opening at the Design Museum next week celebrates all three of these qualities. It covers 50 years of his work – ranging from cutlery designs and household gadgets (trolleys and telephones) to street furniture (traffic lights, benches, bus shelters).

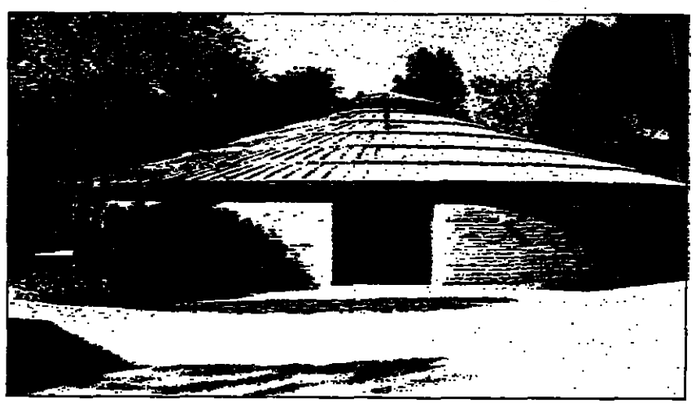
Philippe Starck once said that designing a knife was more difficult than designing a building – he spent a year on the former and 10 days on the latter – but David Mellor, Britain's last major designer-manufacturer, who has done both, is too self-effacing and too realistic to go for a soundbite like that. "The scale is different – it's like making jewellery, compared with buildings," he says.

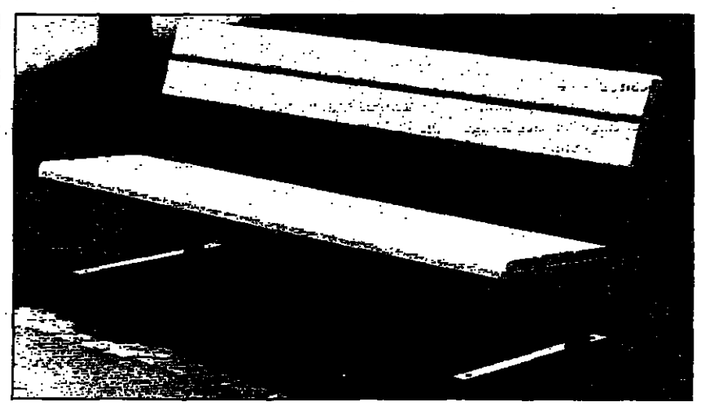
Mellor has always commissioned photographs of his designs, and these are on view at the Retrospective; an impressive record of his work. Black and white pictures of his earliest cutlery design "Pride" can be seen in context with his latest design, "City", alongside other more prosaic objects. They show how much he has influenced our daily lives, as well as how he has given high-tech products an enviable quality of "touchability". "Pride" is the name he gave the cutlery set that evolved in 1948 from two teaspoons he made at art college. The mass production of the set began during his last year as a post-grad at the Royal College of Art in the Sixties: Peter Inchbald, the managing director of Sheffield's largest silver company, decided that he wanted to learn about silversmithing and spent a couple of terms at the College. Inchbald gave Mellor an annual £1,000 consultancy fee, as well as a commission to put "Pride" into production. Thus David Mellor was the first student designer ever to produce a modern classic that went straight into production. "Pride" looks like old English silver cutlery, overlaid with a clean cut modernism that feels good in the hand and mouth. It became one of his best sellers, though you'll never get Mellor to admit that he's proud of it, any more than he will dwell on the sensuous nature of his designs. "I think I've always wanted things to work properly," is as far as he will go. "I expect the product I design to do its job and to have a visual quality as well, and I suppose that what's I look for in life too."

David Mellor is as much known for his kitchen shop in Sloane Square as for his cutlery that is exported all over Europe, but his influence extends far beyond the dining table. Every time you stop at a traffic light, for instance, you are obeying the muse of David Mellor – he designed the ubiquitous light 25 years ago

His latest design "City" was two years in the making. Its contoured profile inspired new welding technologies. He sounds like a Formula One driver as he describes the contouring of sculptural form in mass production: "If welding in a straight line needs, say, a temperature of 10 degrees, when you go round a slow curve, the heat drops to eight or seven. Cornering is not as fast, so that when you get to a really tight bend, it drops dramatically".

Mellor is one of the few surviving Sheffield manufacturers in an obsolete area – cutlery in steel and silver – and he is the only one making modern designs. "Quite rightly, they now only produce traditional cutlery, and they do it very well. They manage to hold on to their market, though its minute compared to what it used to be. The catering trade, on the whole, buys junk cutlery. Posh restaurants have posh cutlery." Terence Conran uses Mellor's "English" range in his Bluebird Café on the King's Road, and the black-handled "Odeon" in the Blueprint Café at the Design Museum.





Above: David Mellor in his Sheffield factory; below, left to right: The Round building at Hathersage, Derbyshire; 'City' cutlery set in stainless steel, 1998; park bench in steel and wood, 1962

Despite his brilliance as a cutlery designer, I suspect that Mellor would rather be known for his talents in media other than silver and steel – his group of modern buildings and his manufacturing base in Sheffield, for instance. Or for his recent installation in the Design Museum that controls the light for the whole top floor; or the wall space for his archive photo collection in his current exhibition. All his life he has either commissioned good architecture or built it himself. Michael Hopkins designed his Round Building, the great circle that houses the Mellor production cycle in Hathersage, Sheffield.

"I got involved in a lot of bigger things in the Sixties," he says. "For instance, I worked in large companies and a lot of government organisations, as well the Design Council who've rather lost their way now. I don't blame them – manufacturing isn't on the agenda very much any more. Governments don't seem to be involved with things nowadays, do they? In the Sixties, governments directed and developed things, like Ken Grange's marvellous bullet-nosed Intercity trains."

Now in his 68th year, Mellor is increasingly interested in the Italian notion of pride in artisanship and the fact that small family businesses invest in machinery to hand on to their children. In northern Italy – "you have to slice Italy in two halves really" – relatively small companies are involved in designing and making things. "They are good at making good new things in Italy. Over here, we've become rather lazy about it. We've found other, easier ways to make money. Dealing in it, for instance". With the Italian manufacturing company Magis (who fold and stack everyday items, like the best selling wine stack racks by Jasper Morrison), Mellor has developed a new trolley, "Transit". This racy number in shiny chrome and steel folds flat, almost to nothing. "I conceived the mechanism of it and ingenious engineers managed to make my scheme work superbly well".

As David Mellor's life story unfolds in this compelling retrospective exhibition, you also get a sense of the story of arts and crafts in Britain in the machine age. British silversmiths in Georgian times were the best in the world but the craft has now almost died out. "Silversmithing? Now, that is difficult. Do people put silver on tables these day, do they commission things? You can't see young people doing that", he says. "For this exhibition we unpacked boxes and discovered silverware we haven't looked at for 20 years. There are some nice surprises, as well as some dustbin lines".

In an attempt to kickstart centuries-old skills into life, the Crafts Council has commissioned watering cans and soup ladles and chopsticks in silver. Everyday utensils in such a precious metal may seem a strange notion, but Mellor, who used to be the chairman of the Crafts Council and resigned because he was unable to bring back age old craft into batch production, believes that the Crafts Council is on the right track. In the 21st century this pioneer of the Modern Movement in Britain will have restored some values that today are seen as shamefully old fashioned.

David Mellor's Retrospective, 'The Real David Mellor', is at the Design Museum, Shad Thames, London SE1, from Tuesday 29 September until 24 November, 11.30am-6pm. Tickets, £5.20. (0171-378 6055)

The Millennium Collection

No 12: The Pedicab

THE PICKUP Pedicab arrived on the roads of Islington in July, designed to ferry shoppers home from Sainsbury's, and already it is becoming an icon of local identity to match the horse-drawn *caleches* of Marrakech, the gondolas of Venice or the bicycle rickshaws of Peshawar. The locals have taken to it with a passion, if the queue outside the supermarket is anything to go by. Amid a jostle of plastic shopping bags, a stout barrister, an Amnesty International translator (plus two children), a flirtatious male couple, an estate agent (with mobile phone), and three kids from the Marquis Estate, plotted their routes on the colour-coded map of the borough. There was an excited bubble of chatter as we added up our small change for the £2 or £3.50 fare and kept a look out for the bright orange plastic hull of a returning Pedicab.

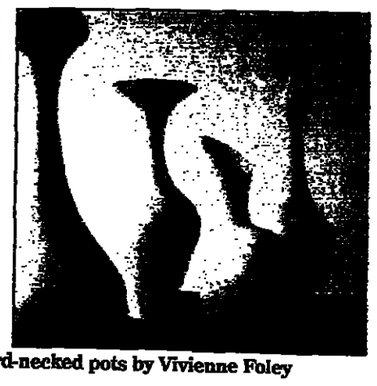
Once aboard, there is a deep tray at the back of the cab for shopping, a seat that can take two fat adults or three kids, a canopy in case of rain, frog-eyed headlights and a fit young man dressed in black driving the geared rickshaw in the front. I yearned for some silk banners, painted gargoyles and bells, but once on the road, my distaste for washable pressed plastic disappeared. You feel like a princess at Ascot and the temptation to wave is irresistible. The wind plucks tears from your eyes, as does the small glimmer of hope that the Pedicab could lead the way in reclaiming the streets of our city for life. The Pedicab, which had already proved itself miraculous by transforming a trip to the supermarket into a fairground ride, also began to glow in my eyes with the bright light of an environmental warrior.

John Lawrence

Designed by Bob Dickson and built in Manchester, the Pedicab felt sturdy and secure but, with its elegant gear mechanisms and thin suspension rods, it also felt like a delicate flower. Will it ever blossom beyond the confines of Islington? Indeed, can it even survive here or will it, once the novelty wears off, be threatened by the assaults of callous drivers, like the horse-drawn drays of Young's Brewery? The experiment in London is entirely dependent on the patronage of the Sainsbury's supermarket in Islington. They have paid for the experimental fleet of Pedicabs, which are run by Jonathan Edwards, a passionate environmentalist who is also responsible for recruiting drivers. The machinery is here – but do we have the will to use it?

The Pickup is designed by The Seat of the Pants Co Ltd (0161-928 5575)

Design News



Above left: Plastic fruit tray by DMD at Designers Block; above right: Bird-necked pots by Vivienne Foley

DESIGN is rife in London this weekend: 100% Design at Earls Court and London Fashion Week almost everywhere else are only the beginning. Take your pick from the city's exhibitions:

STROLL ROUND "WALK 98 – the Design Route". This consists of a dozen exhibitions at the frighteningly fashionable design shops close to Westbourne Grove. Bill Amberg, for example (10 Chepstow Road, W2) has specially designed a set of leather bowls; Duchamp (75 Ledbury Road, W11) is producing one-off precious-metal cufflinks, while Themes & Variations (231 Westbourne Grove, W11) is mounting an exhibition of contemporary French furniture, opening today.

OVER IN Spitalfields is Designers Block, a satellite show of furniture and artefacts, housed in the Old Truman Brewery. They include Ingo Maurer's theatrical "Fly Candle Fly" – a display of 100 "flying" candles in a blackened room – and Cappellini's room sets designed by five maestros: Jasper Morrison, Marc Newson, Michael Marriot, Michael Young and Barber Ogersby of BOA.

Designers Block is at 146 Brick Lane, E1 until Sunday 27 September, Fri, Sat 12-10, Sun 10-6. Tel 0171-247 9992.

THE WORK of contemporary designers is for the first time being admitted to the 20th Century British Art Fair under the auspices of Moderground. Look out for Tessa Katzenllenbogen's beaded mobiles; Francesca Bristol's stingray-skin silver pendants and Jacopo Foggini's resin cast lights.

The 20th Century British Art Fair is at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 until Sun 27 Sept (Fri 11-8, Sat & Sun 11-7). Entry £7. Details 0181-742 1611. Contact Moderground on 0171-510 1621.

IN THE past, potter Vivienne Foley has created massive pieces with thick glazes and rich colours. In her new work she shows a change of direction: black and white porcelain vessels with smooth surfaces and bird-like necks. Catch them until 30 Sept, at Bowwow, 70 Portland Road, London W11 (0171-792 8532).

MUSIC

Jonathan Richman introduced us to the abominable snowman in the supermarket. Now, like wow, he's a film star. By **Max Bell**

There's something about Jonathan

Yes, whatever did happen to Jonathan Richman, and why are people suddenly mentioning his name in such reverential tones again? Half an answer is provided by the gross movie *There's Something About Mary*, in which the Farrelly brothers cast Richman as a travelling singer-cum-Greek Chorus, who adds an element of sweetness to a film larded with vile jokes about zip-trapped dicks, spunky hair mousse, cripples and stalking.

"The Farrellys took me and my drummer [Tommy Larkins] out for dinner and said 'we want you to be like Nat 'King' Cole and Stubby Kaye in *Cat Ballou*. You're singing narrators'. It was fun and it was easy," says the singer, speaking from his Nevada City home. "I got to have lunch with Matt Dillon and Cameron Diaz, and we hung out in a few Cuban clubs in Miami. Matt's big on Cuban music. Me too."

But ask Richman if *There's Something About Mary*, which he also helped score, has resurrected his career and you'll get short shrift. "My time for scoring movies might have come but I've always played live. I'm steady there. Could I drift back into the bigger picture? That might happen but it doesn't bother me especially. My shows were going good before *Mary*, they'll probably go better now. That's fine by me."

The 47-year-old singer made his name with a quiet sound somewhere between the Lovin' Spoonful and rockabilly heaven. He once enjoyed the freakishly successful singles "Road Runner" and "Egyptian Reggae". Equally oddball ditties about his hero Harpo Marx, ice-cream men, Martians, abominable snowmen in supermarkets and baby dinosaurs have ensured Richman a cult niche close to Alex Chilton's.

Even his "unofficial" website – Richman doesn't like computers – is called The Abominable Lesbian Vampire Cappuccino Bar, in homage to his yuck-filled song "I Was Dancing at the Lesbian Bar". American fans swap his song titles like treasured baseball cards.

Richman, right, on song in *There's Something about Mary*

Richman has always been a rock legend in his own lunchbreak. Long before he formed the Modern Lovers in the early Seventies, he was that super-fan who hung out with the Velvet Underground backstage. He even caught John Cale's last show with the band at the Boston Tea Party in 1968. How cool is that? In his teenage years he saw more Lou Reed shows than Lou Reed and quit school early to get a job as a messenger in New York City just so he could infiltrate Andy Warhol's entourage. Double cool.

"Feel free to be jealous," he laughs. "I remember they'd play 'Sister Ray' for 20 minutes and suddenly they'd stop. There'd be complete silence for 5 seconds before everyone broke into all kinds of screaming. I've never seen any group hypnotise a crowd that way."

This Velvet Underground fixation took a karmic turn after Cale signed the Modern Lovers to Warners in 1971 and tried to produce their debut album. The protracted relationship was somewhat soured by Warners executives who told the boy to play "Road Runner" at every gig, or else. When a posse of suits came to see Richman at the Bottom Line, he strolled out, stood at the microphone and didn't sing a note. Bye Bye Jonny.

The Modern Lovers had more luck playing a cabaret turn at Gram Parsons' wake in 1973. At what must qualify as the weirdest gig of all time, the punters paid a $5 entry and could buy a Gram T-shirt and drink beer labelled: "Gram Pilsner: a good stiff drink for what ales you." Others on the bill included a Johnny Cash impersonator, plus Bobby "Boris" Pickett and the Cryptkickers, who squeezed four versions of "Monster Mash" into their eight-song set. Surely, it had to be downhill after that.

Actually, it wasn't all doom and gloom. The eminent rock critic Lillian Roxon insisted that Jon-boy was the next Elvis, while Lester Bangs reckoned "only one in 20,000 has the nervy genius of Iggy or Jonathan and is willing to sing about his adolescent hangups in a manner so painfully honest as to embarrass the piss out of half the audience".

But in a world where most pop stars would rather weigh their press than read it, Richman decided to act. He signed to Matthew King Kaufman's Beserkley independent at a time when the Velvets-equals-new wave-equals-punk movement was about to break. By fluke or good fortune, he was popular enough to headline the Hammersmith Odeon in 1977, where a neon sign read: "The Modern Lovers – the most fun you can have with your clothes on." But he confounded expectations by turning the amps down to one when the audience wanted power chords and glam rock.

On the hideous graph of hype, the Modern Lovers never achieved Kim Fowley's ambition of turning them into "a nerdy Led Zep" but Richman acquired a reputation for splendid eccentricity.

His songs like "Pablo Picasso never got called an ass hole", "Hospital", "She Cracked" and assorted forays into shopping-mall hell have stood up remarkably well. "Road Runner", written in his father's car as a study in adolescent alienation, is so good you could almost believe Jonathan is the Buddy Holly who lived to become middle-aged.

Despite years of label-swapping, but still releasing annual albums and playing 200 dates a year, Richman only won true icon status in Spain. His album *Jonathan, Te Vas A Emocionar* is dedicated to the Voodoo bar in Castellón de la Plana – the most boring town in España according to *El Pais*.

But now the late Nineties are looking good for the fit, thin-hipped, low-maintenance, curly-haired, dare one say, sexy former geek originally from Nerdsville, Massachusetts.

Although his fellow ex-Modern Lovers Jerry Harrison and David Robinson grew rich in the Talking Heads and The Cars, it's Richman who is now signed to Neil Young's Vapor label.

Next month, he's among the headliners at Young's charity gig, The Bridge School Benefit, with the Harvester himself, REM and Sarah McLachlan also on the bill. He is also a fairly permanent fixture on Conan O'Brien's hip show, *Late Night With...*, and is shortly going to appear on Comedy Central's *Viva Variety*.

If people used to laugh at the teetotal, muesli-chomping, non-smoking, road-running Richman, in *There's Something About Mary*, they're laughing with him. Better still, the songs on his latest album, *I'm So Confused*, are top notch. Basically, he's still motivated: "When I was a teenager I made myself a promise. I said Jonathan, if this ever gets to feel like work, you and me are quitting. Is that a deal?' So far, it hasn't become work yet".

Jonathan Richman: the most fun you can have with your clothes on

Poisonous, exhibitionist fluff – and I love it

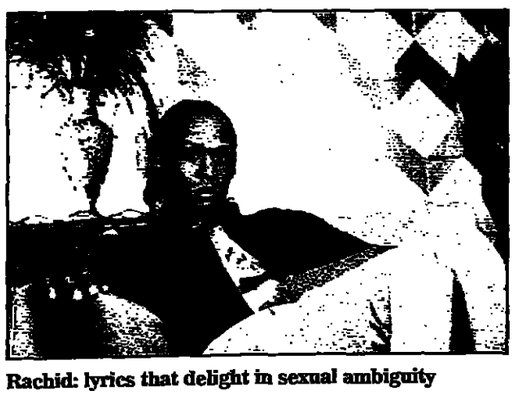
He has been compared to Prince but admires the confessional pop of Pulp. Rachid is one black R&B singer who won't be typecast. By **Phil Johnson**

THERE'S A portrait on the cover, and that old-stager God tops the names on the huge "Thanks to" list inside the sleeve, but otherwise *Prototype*, by the artist known as Rachid – who plays his British debut at London's Jazz Café on Wednesday – is a long way from your usual R&B album.

Rachid may be, as he terms it, a person of colour, but he appears quite unwilling to be stereotyped by anyone's received idea of what he should represent, despite the fact that his father, Ronald Bell, was the co-founder of Seventies funksters, Kool and the Gang.

While there's enough distressed black dance music beats on the album to keep the R&B constituency fairly happy, there are also some rather avant-garde rock-guitar sounds and an over-riding concern for memorable melodies and killer hooks which make for pure, unashamed pop.

In a "secret" track at the end of the CD, there's even a cover of a Serge Gainsbourg song. But perhaps best of all are the lyrics, which delight in the kind of sexual ambiguity and androgynous posing that's usually the preserve of white men in pan-stick and tights.



Rachid: lyrics that delight in sexual ambiguity

Rachid sings of making a deposit in a dirty magazine (naturally, it's a song about going to the bank), and "Prodigal Pete" contains the memorable quatrain: "Get on the bed, that's what they said/You've got to give head to get ahead/The more they spit, the more I'll shine/Dear mom and dad I'm doing just fine."

Listening to the album, which won't be released until the beginning of next year, although there is a single out soon, is like eating sweets after you have already cleaned your teeth and gone to bed. The taste is delicious – pure pop candy – but it is accompanied by a slightly troubling feeling which is one of guilt, for surely black music isn't meant to be this confessional, or so sickly and sweet?

And as Rachid sings, he does a little trick of putting a falsetto catch into his voice that is pure Prince, and you remember that there's an honourable precursor to this kind of vaguely poisonous, exhibitionist pop fluff in R&B mufti. Everybody compares Rachid to Prince, but to do the analogy justice you really need to go back to the days of "Dirty Mind", when the Minneapolis maestro was at his narrow-tied, American new-wave, poppiest. *Prototype* isn't that good, but as first-time albums go, it's more than good enough to be going on with.

In person, Rachid, who's 24 years of age, is small and wiry, with a pumped-up body and an elegant, slightly ruffled, look about him. He was brought up in New Jersey by his nutritionist mother and remembers his father as almost always being away on tour.

Though his parents are now divorced, he still sees his father regularly. He graduated in English and French from Sarah Lawrence College, where he also studied theatre, a training which is evident in the role-playing games of his lyrics. "Sometimes I can be telling a real story or exaggerating one, or sometimes I might invent a character and speak through him," he says. "There's also a lot of autobiography but I'm not going to tell people which bits are true. I have felt I was ugly and I have felt I was inadequate, but I over-inflate it. As regards the songs about my sexual identity, those are very human and honest feelings. The album is chock-full of self-flagellation".

The people Rachid likes to listen to are a rum bunch, and very revealing. "David Bowie, Nico, Iggy Pop, and I love that old Seventies punk and goth stuff. I fell a victim to that when I was at college in LA and I really stood out; I was the raisin in the bowl, the cherry amongst the ice-cream. Blacks have it the worst because we have this great tradition of rhythm and blues – which I would say includes people like the Rolling Stones and Robert Plant – and as a result everyone wants to put you in that box. You can have a blue-eyed soulster much easier than you can have a black rocker."

He's also a confirmed anglophile and a fan of British indie bands, from My Bloody Valentine to Curve. "I associate telling stories more with English music, like Jarvis Cocker", he says. "Music is a rock thing in America but in England it's pop. It's not about what colour someone is, it's about the hook and the melody. Even if I'm not white, I'm still allowed to experiment."

Rachid plays the Jazz Café, London NW1, on 30 Sept (0171-344 0044). The single, 'Pride', is out on 26 Oct on Universal

THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

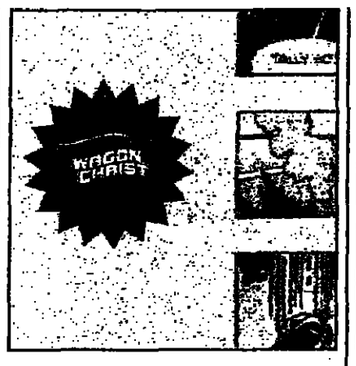
REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL

MERCURY REV
Deserters' Songs
V2

NAMED AFTER Greil Marcus's evocative description of The Band's early albums, this latest offering from Mercury Rev is, by some distance, the best pop record I've heard all year, a breathtakingly poised piece of work which deserves to catapult them to star status. Compared with previous releases such as *Yerself is Steam* and *See You on the Other Side*, this is a more controlled record, less prey to the excesses of experimentalism; but though they've lost some of the edge which characterised their earlier work, they've retained the most crucial element, the sense of wonder that sets them apart from just about everyone in today's jaded, cynical rock scene. There's no time on *Deserters' Songs* for the spoilt, self-piteous whining so prevalent in contemporary British and American rock – the Rev are just too busy trying to express their captivation with the sheer wealth of sound.

In this case, that stretches to include both Mellotron and Chamberlin synthetic strings, trombone, violin, flute, organ, harpsichord, clarinet, a female soprano, and the eerie whine of the bowed saw which snakes its way through several of the tracks like a thread of wistful reverie. Plus the presence on a couple of tracks of Band members and Rev neighbours Levon Helm and Garth Hudson. I've compared Mercury Rev to The Band before, and that holds true more than ever here, where the music has a similar eclectic antiquity, and the kind of grain and unforced ambience that only comes through years of shared experience.

The essential quality here is one of epiphany, with song after song pivoting on the cusp of revelation, as songwriter Jonathan Donahue tries to recall "How does that old song go?" ("Holes") or "The way we were the day we met/The way I lit your cigarette" ("Tonite It Shows"). The album's charm derives from the contrast between Donahue's voice – as fragile, wistful and vulnerable as Neil Young – and the highly sophisticated musical arrangements; from this peculiar combination of naivety and awed wonder comes a wave of poignant yearning that's so much more affecting than the ersatz emotions of most modern soul and rock. Justice demands a wider audience for what is, quite simply, a masterpiece.



WAGON CHRIST
Tally Ho!
Virgin

LUKE VIBERT juggles several careers under a variety of guises – as Plug, he records for Trent Reznor's Nothing label; as himself, for James Lavelle's Mo'Wax; and his Wagon Christ persona has now signed to Virgin for this engaging collection. Luke's thing is sampladelic techno collages, but of a more open, eclectic kind than most, and with a welcome sense of humour which occasionally leads him down a few intriguing, but ultimately unsatisfying, *culs-de-sac*. It may be fun to meticulously sequence tiny snatches of mouth percussion and slurping noises into a rhythmic groove, like he does on "My Organ", but the attractions of listening to what sounds like synchronised vomiting rapidly wear off.

Tracks such as "Memory Towel" – a mondo exotica sample subtly manipulated to achieve a cool, yearning feel – and the hyperactive "Workout" and "Rendleshack" demonstrate Vibert's ability to conjure up effective grooves, though he does have a tendency to focus on the details at the expense of the overall picture. Sometimes, he'll abandon one direction for another, giving the illusion of change without the substance; and even on the more successful tracks, such as the quirky, funky "Piano Playa Hata", one is left with the impression that the real action is happening in a different medium entirely, that we're just hearing the illustrative accompaniment to a film or play. But at least he sounds as if he's having fun, and infectious fun at that.

VIC CHESNUTT
The Salesman & Bernadette
Pinnacle

"INFER A LOVELY story of loss and longing and sloppy satori," runs the legend scrawled on the back of *The Salesman & Bernadette*, a loose song-cycle narrative sketching scenes from the lives of the two protagonists as they meet, mate and meander on. I don't know if there's much by way of satori, sloppy or otherwise, about it, but it has its own discreet charm, thanks in no small measure to the warm, lustrous settings of Lambchop, backing band for the album. Like the Chop's Kurt Wagner, Vic Chesnutt brings the great virtue of emotional honesty to his songs, with a sometimes disconcerting frankness about matters of sex and spite.

He also shares Wagner's whimsical impressionism: many of these songs are strange accretions of glimpses and attitudes in free-verse form, masquerading as songs in Lambchop's odd musical garb. But no matter how personal or impermeable a song seems, suddenly Chesnutt will hit the listener with a line which cuts to the quick and brings everything back into focus: "In cahoots or love or all of the above" (in "Bernadette"); "He's using up all that old currency" (applied in "Duty Free" to the international business traveller so fêted in airline commercials); and particularly his philosophical summation in "Parade", "We are busy weaklings poking around for reasons". Which just about covers life as we know it, Jim.

BOB SINCLAR
Paradise
Eastwest

THE LATEST of a wave of Gallic techno operatives to invade our shores these last couple of years, Bob Sinclar knows where his imperatives lie: firmly four on the floor, forcing feet to move. Where such as Air and DJ Cam impress with their subtlety and sophistication, Bob sides more with Daft Punk, applying the same relentless directness to his sample-based techno as they do to their old-style acid house. It's utterly irresistible, too: "Disco 2000 Selector" is typical of the Sinclar method, with fat backbeat and funk bass coolly loping along while little tweezered whiskers of synth and the occasional swell of horns punctuate the flow.

It is the combination of simplicity of focus with meticulously-crafted grooves which drives the best tracks on this album, such as the sublime swirl and stomp of the S'Express-like "Vision Of Paradise", the slick soul-jazz collage of "The Ghetto", and the ultimate funk of, er, "Ultimate Funk".

In its dedication to in-your-face propulsion at all costs, *Paradise* is reminiscent of Doug Lazy's splendid album, *Doug Lazy Gettin' Crazy*: like Doug, Bob emphasises the logicality and cretin-simplicity of machine-made dance music, tapping into the dumb hedonism that is at the heart of all great rock'n'roll. Unlike Doug, however, he is not averse to effort, judging by the aerobic workout of "Gym Tonic".

LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

The nation's great country houses are once again being bought up by pop stars such as Scary Spice and The Verve's Richard Ashcroft. These days, far from wrecking the place, the new buyers are more likely to want to restore and upgrade their new home.

The New Owner

"The house is 16th century
Attractions not the least being
The splendid woodland setting
And ivy on the east wing
The stucco wants re-washing
The floorboards need a sanding
And the rugs don't work
They just make it worse
Especially on the landing

"It's eaten all the profits
From last tour of the States
The blacksmith charges extra
For curlicues on gates
The scullery is tiny
It doesn't have much headroom
And the rugs don't work
They just make it worse
D'you want see the bedroom?

"The pargeting's pure Suffolk
I asked them at Rut Knightly
Or should that be Knight
Rutley?
I can't remember rightly
The water heater's ancient
We're fitting an immersion
And the rugs don't work
They just make it worse
I should have ordered Persian

"With all this renovation
The studio gear gets dusty
The locals have been talking
I don't think that they trust me
The stable's Grade II listed
It's where they kept the
carriages
And the rugs don't work
They just make it worse
I'll have to speak to Claridges."

Pretty vulnerable

Dennis Morris snapped the Sex Pistols at their peak. He captured their innocence. By **Fiona Sturges**

FOLLOWING HIS success on tour with Bob Marley, the precocious photographic talents of Dennis Morris, aged 17, were enlisted in 1977 to document the Sex Pistols on their infamous SPOTS tour (Sex Pistols On Tour in Secret). A selection of these photographs are now on show in "Destroy" at London's Proud Galleries.

Having caused a rumpus with their gobby disrespect for the Queen, the band had to tour surreptitiously.

Conditions were trying for Morris, to say the least. At the front of every gig, he was showered with a range of bodily excretions and continually lifted off his feet in the scrum, while throughout the year he became embroiled in the band's disputes, and on one occasion was beaten with a baseball bat when a gang crashed into Johnny Rotten's Chelsea flat.

From the crushed chaos of their concerts to the band's stolen moments of solitude, Morris's black-and-white pictures capture the doltish child in Sid Vicious, who comes across as the most good-natured of the band, and Rotten's disillusionment. Rotten carries the weight of their excess heavily, and his more erudite brand of anarchy appears stifled by his colleague's dumb indifference.

One picture of the band in concert sees Sid giggling inanely at the audience while Johnny stares at him disparagingly. Another sees Sid, with his shirt hanging open to reveal slash marks on his chest, tucking heartily into his food while Rotten rejects his and stares into the middle distance.

Sid Vicious: a good-natured yet doltish child with his chums *Dennis Morris*

But Sid did have a few thoughtful moments. Morris seems to have barged in on a rare moment of privacy between Sid and Nancy backstage, and while you don't imagine that they are engaging in particularly enlightened conversation, the photograph suggests that, for a moment at least, they are both at peace.

'Destroy' is at the Proud Galleries, London WC2, until 30 Oct (0171 839 4942)

Stick it to the lads

REVIEW

LILITH FAIR: SARAH MCLACHLAN, SINEAD O'CONNOR
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
LONDON

ACCORDING TO Jewish mythology, Adam's first wife, Lilith, was thrown out of the Garden of Eden for being too independent. From there, she went on to fend very nicely for herself, thank you very much, and her namesake, Lilith Fair, which is a "celebration of women in music", echoes such DIY sentiments.

With an emphasis on entertainment over ideology, and transforming the cavernous Royal Albert Hall into a kind of Greenham Common fun park, tonight's conservative bill – Lisa Loeb, N'dea Davenport, Beth Orton, Alison Moyet, Sarah McLachlan and Sinead O'Connor respectively – deliver a marathon six hours of folk-rock, soul and pop by way of showcasing the acclaimed American touring package.

Lilith Fair was founded in 1996 by McLachlan, a 30-year-old Canadian singer-songwriter, as a riposte to the testosterone-fuelled, peripatetic thrashfest that is Lollapalooza. In a musical climate where many American radio stations refuse to play women back-to-back, Lilith Fair and its alternating line-up has gone on to become the world's most financially lucrative roaming festival. It's also turned the business savvy McLachlan into a multi-million selling artist, raised money for women-centred charities, and become THE gig for grown-up Riot Grrrls.

The question is, of course, does Lilith Fair work in the UK? McLachlan, the only artist to have performed on all 170 coast-to-coast dates, is a huge drawcard back home; here she is largely unknown. (A fact, presumably, tonight's organisers have sought to remedy by placing flyers for her fourth album, *Surfacing*, on every seat.) All involved did, however, throw themselves into proceedings with appropriate *joie de vivre*.

"It's just so special to play alongside people you're inspired by, and to audiences that come to listen," gushed Lisa Loeb who, backed by two violins and a cello, sang brightly of black holes and Sigmund Freud from behind her trademark Nana Mouskouri specs. "We're here to party," shrieked N'dea Davenport, late of the Brand New Heavies, before launching into a series of blues funk numbers. Beth Orton brought her male guitarist onstage for some rhythm-infused folk; the rich vocals of ex-Yazoo Alison Moyet (a "living legend", we're told) were highlighted by the Albert Hall's acoustics; a newly shorn Sinead O'Connor sang "Nothing Compares 2 U" with a mixture of strength and vulnerability – the essence, indeed, of Lilith Fair itself.

The phenomenal success of Lilith Fair has generated inevitable criticisms, largely that the line up isn't as diverse as it could be. And with Stateside tours including heavyweights such as Joni Mitchell, Jewel and Missy Elliott, tonight's bunch seem positively tame by comparison. Where, for example, was Chrissie Hynde? Polly Harvey? Carleen Anderson?

Regardless, this evening belonged to Sarah McLachlan, who popped up for the odd duet (including, with Davenport, a storming rendition of Neil Young's "Old Man") and was name-checked, praised and hugged throughout. The big love-in finale hadn't taken place at the time of going to press, but it's a sure-fire bet that she got the biggest cheer of all.

Eschewing the "F"-word (i.e. feminism) while espousing its principles (i.e. that women matter as much as men), McLachlan et al stick two manicured fingers up to the laddish music industry and turn out some memorable performances while they're at it. Lilith Fair will be back, with all three stages, for a full European tour in 1999; whether they'll be able to pull that one off is another matter entirely.

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

JANE CORNWELL

THE CHARTS

TOP 10 UK POP ALBUMS

1	This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours	Manic St Preachers
2	Step One	Steps
3	Savage Garden	Savage Garden
4	Where We Belong	Boyzone
5	Talk On Corners	Corrs
6	One Night Only	Bee Gees
7	Life Thru a Lens	Robbie Williams
8	Mechanical Animal	Marilyn Manson
9	The Best of - Hatful of Rain	Del Amitri
10	Blue	Simply Red

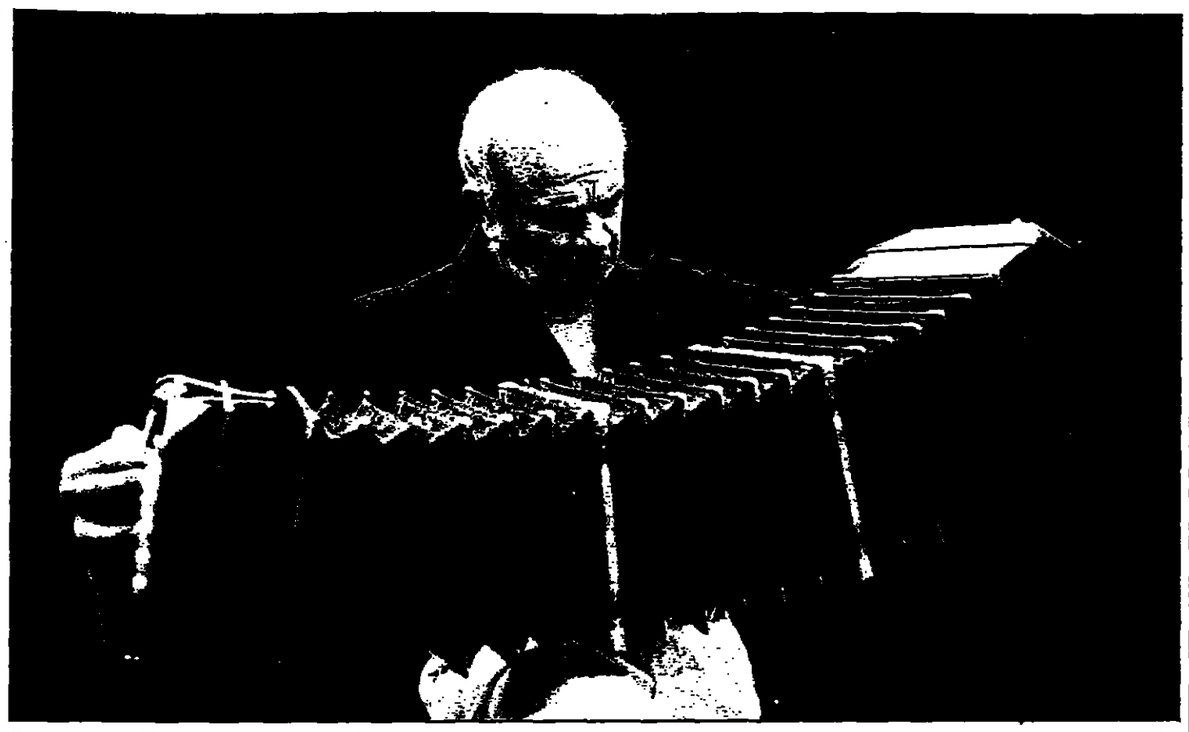
TOP 10 UK POP SINGLES

1	I Want You Back	Melanie B featuring Missy Elliott
2	Millennium	Robbie Williams
3	Sex on the Beach	T-Spoon
4	Crush	Jennifer Paige
5	No Matter What	Boyzone
6	Finally Found	Honeyz
7	One for Sorrow	Steps
8	I Don't Want to Miss a Thing	Aerosmith
9	Someone Loves You Honey	Lutricia McNeal
10	To the Moon and Back	Savage Garden

Seduced by the tango

MICHAEL CHURCH

Massive emotional forces are contained, and resolved, with the inevitability of ritual



One man and his bandoneon: Astor Piazzolla, the king of the tango *Joel Meyerowitz*

The Kronos Quartet weave dreams with it; Daniel Barenboim lets off steam with it; Yo-Yo Ma belts it out on the cello; violinist Gidon Kremer plays very little else. Forget the potency of cheap music: consider instead the tango. This extends far beyond the vertical sex it was originally designed to accompany: the tango now rivals jazz as the top recreational drug for classical virtuosi. Why should this seemingly fossilised form have so fired the classicists' imagination?

You could adduce its Spanish connections, its Cuban antecedents, its possible African roots: this is a music blissfully un-neutered by post-modern self-consciousness. You could talk about love and death, the knife under the cloak, the high drama of porteno low life. There is an element of truth in all these clichés, but the real secret is blindingly simple: Astor Piazzolla. Gidon Kremer's recording of this Argentinian composer's "operita" *Maria de Buenos Aires* (released this week by Teldec) is the latest in a burst of *hommages* from the classical camp.

Piazzolla lived and died a bandoneonist, and was never happier than when playing in downtown Buenos Aires. But he was also classically-trained: his aim was to raise the tango to a concert art, without blunting its exhilarating edge. Since Bach was the first great dealer in strict-rhythm dance forms, it was fitting that he should be one of Piazzolla's heroes; Bach's harmonic progressions pervade his works. Like Bach, he saw no great distinction between improvisation, composition and performance. In Piazzolla's tangos, massive emotional forces are contained, and resolved, with the inevitability of ritual.

Maria de Buenos Aires is uncharacteristically sprawling: a low-life saga tailor-made for translation to the cinema (Bufuel would have known exactly what to do with it). "I don't think it's going to be standard repertoire," says Kremer cautiously. He can say that again. The libretto, by one of Piazzolla's besotted admirers, is a wild farrago of whores, angels, pimps, and psychiatrists. The work's true subject is the tango itself, which ranges from lazy deliberation to furious excitement, and every so often breaks into a remarkably Bach-like fugue. Kremer, who spins violin arabesques above the melée below, says he was impelled to make this recording by the "injustice" done to the work by its original recording 30 years ago. The result is mesmerising: I cannot imagine a better advocate.

From another neck of the classical woods comes *Los Tanguero*s (Sony), on which ace-Schubertian Emanuel Ax teams up with tango specialist Pablo Ziegler for a luxurious two-piano romp. Ax confesses that he only got the point of tango when he saw Al Pacino in *Scent of a Woman*, and that he had to be taught how to play it by Ziegler. "It was galling to watch his ease with things I had great trouble with. People like me tend to work in phrase-lengths, and to pursue a singing line at the expense of rhythmic intensity. This was a valuable lesson."

Meanwhile, the British pianist Kathryn Stott has been infected with the Piazzolla virus by her chamber colleague Yo-Yo Ma (on *Soul of the Tango* from Sony). "I didn't get it when I first looked at the music," she says. "It was only when we started playing, and the incredible build-up of tension hit me in the stomach, that I understood why Yo-Yo was so mad about it." She has now founded a tango trio, and is off to Japan next week with her own Piazzolla arrangements.

THIS WEEK, after the most ignominiously protracted selection process in living memory, the BBC finally announced the new controller of Radio 3. Will Wyatt's enraged denials that Roger Lewis was offered the job are now denied by an equally enraged R Lewis. By accepting the top job at Classic FM, Lewis has found his perfect niche. So who is this other Roger who inherits Nicholas Kenyon's crown of thorns?

Roger Wright: a safe pair of hands for Radio 3

"A safe pair of hands," say Roger Wright's former colleagues at Deutsche Grammophon. "Conscientious, caring, and canny," say fellow-labourers at Broadcasting House, where as head of classical music he has just struck an impressively sensible new deal with the orchestral unions.

When I ask him what he thinks Radio 3 stands for, I get a bold and unhesitating reply. "It's about maintaining quality, and preserving the public service role. It's about being a cultural patron, about broadcasting live and specially-recorded music. It's about maintaining the voice of authority, and making the audience feel they are part of the world of ideas.'

Will he therefore reprieve the excellent *Music Matters*, which Kenyon was planning to axe? "That's the sort of issue I want to look at." Which presenters will Wright axe? "I can't talk about that yet. It's only fair to talk privately with everybody first, but I will obviously want to change things." How important to him are ratings? "What's more important to me is the editorial distinctiveness of the network. We have a loyal and passionately committed audience, and I would like them to listen longer than they do at present." There is no gung-ho bombast here.

Wright will have to fit into a complicated heirarchy, and he will have as his commissioning editor the music world's top bogeywoman, who was originally regarded as a shoo-in for the job he has landed. So who will call the shots? He or Hilary Boulding? "It's still early days. I'll let you know about that." He laughs, but he sounds confident. And this is a man who, while at DG, signed up Oliver Knussen and recording Boulez and Berio. Authority, passion, ideas? I think – praise be – I hear the sound of a clock being turned back.

This one goes out to God

Messiaen's *La Transfiguration* is a huge work of homage. By **Christopher Dingle**

AS A composer who ranks among one of the greatest musicians of the 20th century, and who is one of the most remarkable religious artists in the Western Christian tradition, the lack of music written for the liturgy within Olivier Messiaen's output might seem to be puzzling.

Most of his organ pieces were, admittedly, the product of his improvisations as organist for the Parisian church of Saint Trinité, but just one cycle, *Messe de la Pentecôte*, was written for a specific function within the liturgy. There are no masses, no requiems, no hymns; no "*Magnificat*" or "*Ave Maria*".

Messiaen was asked on several occasions to write works for religious services, so their absence was no mere oversight. Rather, it stemmed from a combination of humility in the face of the subject matter and a passionate belief that plainchant, with its anonymously composed free-flowing melodies, is the only music truly capable of enhancing worship. Nevertheless, while he wrote virtually no music for the church liturgy, Messiaen did compose two liturgical works for the concert hall. The first, *Trois petites liturgies de la Présence Divine* (1943-4), is one of his most popular works. Composed more than 20 years later, the second is a colossal oratorio, *La Transfiguration de Notre-Seigneur Jésus-Christ* (1965-9). Due to its immense size, it is infrequently performed in this country, making this Sunday's performance by the London Symphony Orchestra under Kent Nagano an all too rare opportunity to experience.

La Transfiguration is a big work in every way. A 10-part mixed choir is partnered by a *très grand* orchestra numbering more than a hundred. A striking feature is the prominence attached to instruments of the extreme bass, imbuing the oratorio with its monumental flavour and helping to create a gigantic granite edifice upon which Messiaen presents dazzling colours and launches flurries of birdsong. Unusually for a large choral work, there are no solo vocalists. However, there are seven instrumental soloists – piano (performed on Sunday by the composer's widow, Yvonne Loriod), cello, flute, clarinet, xylorimba, marimba and vibraphone – which are mostly devoted to birdsong. And God's musicians, the birds, are the real protagonists of *La Transfiguration*.

Between *Trois petites liturgies* (performed by the BBCSO as part of a Messiaen weekend in January) and *La Transfiguration*, Messiaen's musical language changed beyond all recognition. *Trois petites liturgies* explores the heady limits of the modal approach to composition characteristic of his early music, and which reaches its zenith with *Turangalila-symphonie* (1946-8). After *Turangalila*, Messiaen stripped his music of its more opulent components, concentrating instead on what Boulez has described as the "more anarchic intervals".

La Transfiguration also marks a second change in Messiaen's music. It is his first monumental act of homage which draws upon the entirety of his capacious compositional toolkit. Despite complexities of detail, the expansive gestures of *La Transfiguration* possess a powerful simplicity and convey a profoundly spiritual message. Innovatory techniques merely take their place alongside the plethora of existing materials.

Exploring the multitude of nuances of detail while maintaining a grasp of the overall transcendental beauty across the 14 movements of *La Transfiguration* poses difficulties for performers, as Kent Nagano explained. "The tempi are very, very broad and within those broad tempi, there are sections which must feel as if they are newly generated by improvisation. There are a lot of plainchant-like passages which do not really fit into a rigid metre, even though, on the large scale, they fit effectively into the overall superstructure. To keep the feeling of flexibility, suppleness and almost quasi-improvisational inspiration within the framework is challenging." A challenge that Nagano clearly relishes.

It is not difficult to see why. In this work of bold juxtapositions, Messiaen ensured that, in addition to being a heartfelt expression of his Roman Catholic faith, it is also a magnificent artistic spectacle. It is not necessary to share his theological outlook in order to be beguiled by this mysterious blend of the simple and the complex, the delicate and the powerful.

'La Transfiguration de Notre-Seigneur, Jésus-Christ', LSO/Kent Nagano, Sunday, Barbican, 7.30pm (0171-638 8891)

We can work it out

Next month, new rules will limit the working week to 48 hours. Staff will benefit while employers suffer the headaches. By Linda Tsang

The work-hard and work-long hours brigade has already been targeted with the Fairness at Work White Paper and the Health and Safety Executive trying to extend its remit to cover reducing stress in the workplace. And from next Thursday, 1 October, the Working Time Directive comes into force, which will mean a major upheaval on how working time is organised in the UK.

The directive introduces a maximum 48-hour week limit which has to be strictly monitored by the employer. That has caused one employment lawyer to comment that it may mean reverting to the archaic system of clocking in and clocking out, and that is likely to cause more stress and more problems.

The Working Time Regulations 1998 were issued at the end of July, but only became available towards the end of August, allowing very little time for employers or employees to get to grips with the major changes which will affect their working time and practices. For the first time, national minimum standards will apply, and most workers will become entitled to at least three weeks' paid holiday. They must also be given a minimum of 11 hours' rest each day and one day off each week.

'If workers will work in excess of 48 hours, the employer will have to persuade them to give genuine consent to opt out of the regulations'

Professional advisers have also been carrying out briefings to clarify what impact the regulations will have. As one leading employment solicitor comments: "There is a rather vague definition of 'managing executives or other persons with autonomous decision-taking powers', which has caused some lawyers to scratch their heads with a look of puzzlement and caused other lawyers to rub their hands together with glee as they contemplate future litigation."

The main change is that the regulations apply to workers, not just employees, so that the directives will cover not only those working under contracts of employment but also those working under other forms of contract. Also, they will not necessarily cover the time which is paid for, but the time when the worker is actually working.

Mark Hewland, an employment partner at the City law firm, Simmons & Simmons, says that "everyone, even lawyers, will have to consider who falls under the regulations, and who comes under the special cases. If it is likely that a worker will work in excess of 48 hours, the employer will have to persuade the worker to give genuine consent to opt out of the regulations. You can't force them to opt out by withholding promotion or salary increases, or dismiss them, because if there is any detrimental treatment, the employer can be faced with a claim for unfair dismissal or breach of contract."

Another problem is that there are more exclusions and special cases than applications. The excluded categories are those working in certain industries, such as air transport, rail, road transport, sea transport and sea fishing and other work at sea. The special cases cover security and surveillance workers and the view is that that also covers certain hospital and prison workers, certain people in the media, as well as lecturers. Those who are self-employed are not covered by the regulations.

And according to another employment specialist, Elizabeth Adams at the law firm Beachcroft Stanleys, "doctors in training are excluded – although the European Commission is currently looking at those exclusions. But there are also a number of peculiarities in the case of hospitals that have banks of nurses or those who work part-time. There will be difficulties about working out holiday entitlements."

There is also the problem of what is "on call" – it is a grey area and the view of many employment lawyers is that employers may end up going to court to determine what it covers – for example, if you are out for dinner with friends but waiting for calls, that may not be "working time". Working time is the time when the worker is at the employer's disposal, during which they are working and are carrying out their activity or duties. GPs, who can work for 15 hours a day, may not be covered because they are self-employed, but locums who are employed may be covered.

The major headache for the employers is that they are under an obligation to monitor the workers to make sure that they are not working more than 48 hours.

One of the misconceptions is that, once a worker has opted out, that is the end of having to comply with the regulations, but the "nonsensical" part, according to one lawyer, is that the employer still has to monitor the hours that they are working whether or not they have opted out.

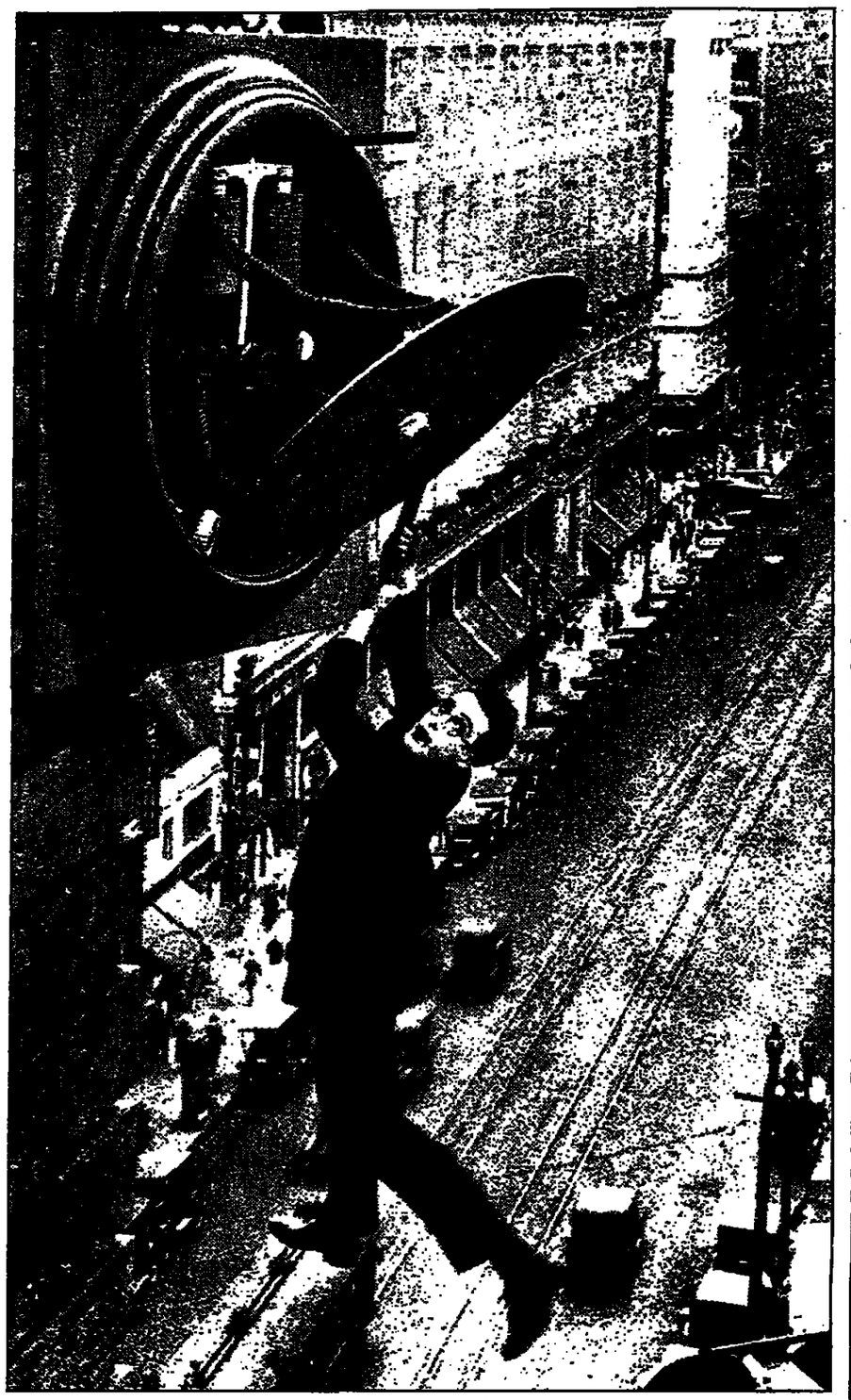
One corporate employer has called it a "nightmare". In Germany, the normal way to do the monitoring is by clocking in and clocking out. Other methods which have been suggested include filling in time sheets, using a turnstile system where the workers are monitored, a security swipecard, or keeping a check on the logging in and logging out on computers. But these raise more questions as to accuracy. And the employer cannot shift the burden of keeping records of working time entirely on to the worker.

The other problem is that people are suspicious of inquiries about their working habits, especially if they have two jobs – they are likely to suspect that the Inland Revenue is somewhere behind the inquiry.

But with less than one week to go, John McMullen, head of employment at the national law firm, Pinsent Curtis, advises that there is no need to panic: "Do not put it on the back burner. If you haven't already got one, get a copy of the DTI Guidance Notes. One of the less complicated (and also most useful) parts of the new rules is that by agreeing a workforce or collective agreement with employee representatives, both sides can set down the limits of working time and rest hours. And that means there is no need to have individual opt-out agreements."

Elizabeth Adams, of Beachcroft Stanleys, adds: "Do an audit of what hours all your people are working – at all levels. Unless you do that, you will not begin to know whether or not you are in breach of the regulations, and then you can decide what you should be doing. The principal concern is the 48-hour week – the Health & Safety Executive is responsible for policing it and both employers and workers should appreciate that – it is not there to cut down on overtime, and there is a certain amount of flexibility. Unlike a lot of legislation, there is the opportunity to opt in and opt out.

Health & Safety Executive: 0845 6000 925; Web site: http:/www.ldti.gov.uk/workright



Employers must get a better grip of time than Harold Lloyd *MSI*

Exploding the myth of the fat-cat lawyers

OUR LEARNED FRIEND

MARTYN GOWAR

WHAT IS the truth about "fat cat lawyers"? This month has seen the publication in the United Kingdom of the country's two leading legal directories, *Chambers & Partners* and the *Legal 500*, complete with league tables of law firm performance, and the wider speculation about the earnings of partners. And that is quite apart from the headlines on the lawyers acting for the Royal Family. There are enough statistics – real or imaginary – circulating in the marketplace to allow the publication of many headline-winning articles.

But while £900,000-a-year profit shares undoubtedly make good copy, the truth is that the vast majority of the 71,000 solicitors practising in England and Wales (and indeed barristers) earn nothing like the figures awarded to a handful of the profession's star players. While it is naive to attempt to garner sympathy for lawyers, in the interests of accuracy the following points should be made.

■ Law firm partners earning the gross sums touted in the media do not get paid each month anything like the rate of one-twelfth of the headline figure. Partners can pay themselves only what is in the bank, after covering the salaries and pension contributions of their staff, and subtracting sizeable sums to cover overheads and development. There is no minimum figure set by firms for distribution to partners, and if there is no profit, the equity partners draw no income.

■ Partners have to invest money in their practice's working capital needs. In a large City firm, the individual investment of each partner will run to a six-figure sum.

■ In addition, during partnership, lawyers may see a proportion of their income retained in the firm's account to increase working capital as the business grows. But each partner will continue to be taxed on the full sum of their income, at the top-bracket rate of 40 per cent. Compare a company where money retained for the benefit of the business is subject only to tax at 21 or 31 per cent.

■ Unlike a company, a law firm will simply return to its retiring partners their initial investment, in devalued pounds. And it offers no shares for sale or reinvestment by retiring partners.

■ The profit shares attributed to partners by legal journals and the media do not reflect the sums available to most members of the profession. Those sums can be secured by partners in only a handful of the largest City firms, while last year's Law Society Annual Statistical Report tells us that average earnings for partners in firms outside of London stand at around £30,000 pa.

■ For many law firms, particularly those in the regions, the reduction by the Government of a substantial proportion of the Legal Aid budget, the encouragement of no-win/no-fee arrangements, and the massive increase in indemnity insurance premiums, has placed additional pressure on turnover figures and cash flow.

Politicians jump on the populist bandwagon to castigate lawyers, but it is the MPs who promote and then vote for vast quantities of legislation, together with supporting regulations, and much of it is unconsidered. Parliamentary draftsmen are very capable people, and the Government officials who instruct them are not to be underestimated for their knowledge, but they are not at the sharp end of commercial deals, and can only act on the say of their political masters.

It is the lawyers who must wade through impenetrable text, and advise clients as to what it all means. This learning process takes considerable time, which could otherwise be spent in the pursuit of clients and the billable hour – so is it a surprise that when the advice may affect a major transaction, and the client would be well-justified in suing if the advice proved wrong, that that responsibility can be seen as justifying significant hourly rates of charge?

This is particularly arguable when advice has to be given under pressure from demanding clients. Stress is no respecter of status, so it is no surprise that partners in major City firms are earning at their maximum for no more than 10-15 years. To that extent, the shelf-life of a partner is not that much different from that of a top-class footballer – but not as well-paid.

Martyn Gowar is the senior partner at law firm Lawrence Graham

Disquiet on the home front

The property market is shaping up for recession. By Rachel Halliburton

BE WARNED, all those who are about to launch themselves on to the precarious waters of the housing market. Recent statistics indicating a slowing down of property sales have brought back painful memories from the property recession of the late 1980s and early 1990s and the spectre of negative equity.

Whether they are applying for a mortgage, or seeking a valuation of the property they are about to sell, they will be dealing with companies battered by memories of unrepaid loans, valuation negligence claims, and fraudulent mortgage applications.

Building societies, chartered surveyors and solicitors are still reeling from the wave of litigation arising from the last property recession, and the representative bodies for each profession have either developed, or are in the process of developing, guidelines to ensure that they are less likely to end up in court the next time.

Earlier this year, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors made it compulsory for all private practices to establish in-house complaints handling procedures, with external mediation, or, in cases which cannot be settled by those procedures, arbitration to determine allegations of negligence.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders reports that since the early Nineties, banks and building societies have responded to the rise in arrears and repossessions by cutting down on 100 per cent mortgage loans, and subjecting applicants to more rigorous credit checks.

Mortgage lenders have also placed a far heavier burden on solicitors to guarantee the credit-worthiness of clients and to establish a clean bill of health for the property.

Alison Crawley, head of professional ethics at the Law Society, says it will be considering a measure which will mean that a solicitor can only act for a borrower and a lender if this burden is reduced.

For those who want salutary tales, a case heard last year – Coventry Building Society vs William Martin & Partners – is a classic illustration of the problems which buyers can come up against when caught in the battle between mortgage lenders and surveyors.

On 17 July 1989, a professional surveyor from William Martin & Partners had valued a property at Upper Richmond Road, Putney, south-west London, at £325,000. As a result, Coventry Building Society had lent £243,750 to the purchasers, who had granted a mortgage of the property as security.

The loan was made on the purchasers' own certification of income – but subsequently, they fell into arrears. The house was repossessed, and resold in 1992 for £145,000, and the building society sued the surveyors for the difference.

One of the reasons that the building society won the case was because the valuer was considered negligent for not taking into consideration the fact that market conditions were going into decline.

David Hartfield, a solicitor at the London firm Hartfields, asserts that this was a common phenomenon. However, he said: "I don't think this will happen again. The valuers have learned a very expensive lesson, and they are now making much more conservative estimates."

Although the situation may seem bleak, the jury is still out on whether the market is heading for freefall.

Charlotte Capstick, a leading professional negligence lawyer at Berrymans Lace Mawer, says: "It is too soon to say that we are entering a property recession.

"We are merely entering a more stable period which contrasts with the over-heated rise in house prices that has been experienced recently."

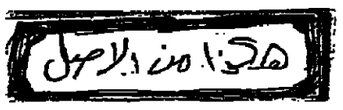
A spokesman for the Nationwide Building Society agrees: "We recorded a fall in prices in August of 0.5 per cent – the first fall in 20 months. But prices are still 9.2 per cent higher than they were a year ago."

However, indications are rife that the market is – at the very least – entering a stagnant period. Last month, Hambro Countrywide, one of Britain's largest estate agencies, showed that it had lost £880,000 between January and June 1998, which was in stark contrast with its £3.5m profit in the second half of 1997.

Even so, Paul Taylor, also a solicitor at Berrymans, points out that if predictions are correct, the situation should be better this time round.

"The 1980s was the time of great greed. People were buying properties at £100,000 and expecting them to fetch £200,000. When prices dropped, some surveyors were still overvaluing," he says.

Roger Ennals, a solicitor at the Essex firm of Sparling Benham & Brough, is also sceptical of a return to the problems of the past. "Overall, people are still cautious and within the last three years, lenders have tended to undervalue properties. Because of this, I don't perceive that there will be a huge rise in litigation. Essentially, I think it's just a blip."



New Films

CUBE (15)
Director: Vincenzo Natali
Starring: Maurice Dean Wint, David Hewlett, Nicole de Boer
This Canadian science-fiction thriller takes an ingenious idea – a group of strangers trapped within a gigantic booby-trapped cube try to figure out their escape route and the meaning of their existence – but reduces the intellectual possibilities to the condescending level of a GCSE study guide. Some inventively gory effects and resourceful production design almost compensate.
West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza

DEEP RISING (15)
Director: Stephen Sommer
Starring: Treat Williams, Famke Janssen, Jason Flemyng, Anthony Heald
See The Independent Recommends, right
West End: Odeon West End

SECRET DEFENSE (PG)
Director: Jacques Rivette
Starring: Sandrine Bonnaire, Jerzy Radziwilowicz, Gregoire Colin (subtitles)
See The Independent Recommends, right
West End: Renoir

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)
Director: Peter & Bobby Farrelly
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Ben Stiller, Matt Dillon, Lee Evans, Chris Elliott
There's Something About Mary is the new comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly (previous repulsive but shamefully funny crimes against humanity: *Dumb and Dumber* and *Kingpin*). But it's not the movie's steady trickle of off-colour gags involving bodily fluids and mistreated animals that is outrageous so much as the fact that most of them have already been revealed months in advance by the picture's trailer. If you have seen that, then you've experienced the film's highlights. For those who haven't, I pledge not to reveal any of the horrible little surprises that the Farrellys have waiting for you.

In a reversal of their earlier work, this new film has a promising premise but fails, for the most part, to deliver on it. Ben Stiller is heartbreaking as the nerdy Ted, who ruins his big Prom Night date with the local beauty, Mary (Cameron Diaz), when he has an ugly accident with his zipper. Flash forward 13 years, and Ted's life is in limbo because he can't get over his former near-date. He hires a sleazy private eye, Pat (Matt Dillon), to locate Mary, but this nostalgic search becomes a bizarre love triangle when Pat develops his own obsession with the woman.

The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. While it's true that the likes of *Sleepless in Seattle* never accommodated the body-horror comedy on display here, the gags never amount to anything more than vulgar icing on a bland cake.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

WOO (15)
Director: Daisy VS Mayer
Starring: Jada Pinkett Smith, Tommy Davidson, Duane Martin
Jada Pinkett Smith and executive producer John Singleton (who directed *Boyz N the Hood*) are only two of the talents wasted in this witless comedy. What plot there is revolves around the love life of a woman named Woo (Pinkett Smith), and the efforts of various suitors to bed her. The jokes and skits will prompt only embarrassed silences, but, more despairingly, the film evidently couldn't care less about its characters.
West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

Ryan Gilbey

The Independent Recommends

Film Ryan Gilbey

SECRET DEFENSE, which translates as *Top Secret*, finds Jacques Rivette sprinkling his magic dust on a routine story about a young woman (Sandrine Bonnaire) snagged between impotence and aggression in the search for her father's murderer. It's *Hamlet* in slow-motion. Rivette has the hungry eye of a voyeur combined with the sad heart of a wounded romantic. Under his watchful gaze, the most innocuous act creaks with foreboding; he very subtly makes you squirm for a full 90 minutes. Only one problem. In *Secret Défense*, there are still another 80 to go.
On release

The daft horror movie **Deep Rising** establishes its B-movie credentials with an abundance of bad dialogue and a scene in which a woman is sucked down a toilet. And nice to see our own Jason Flemyng (*above*) firing automatic weapons at toothy sea serpents. Not the sort of thing a British actor gets to do every day of the week.
On release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

DAVID GRINDLEY'S quick-witted production of the 1966 breakthrough black farce **Loot**, by Joe Orton (*below*), makes no attempt to update what is essentially a game of mind-twisting word-play between a police inspector and three greedy so-and-sos, who are trying to extricate a coffin stashed with stolen gelt from the deceased's house. The setting may be olde-worlde, but the amoral attitude-striking, so powerfully satirised and celebrated, has become a thing of the present.
Vaudeville Theatre, London WC2
(0171-836 9987) 8pm

In **Katherine Howard**, William Nicholson engages in historical what-ifs and shows Emilia Fox's Katherine as a clear-headed victim of the duplicitous Cranmer, who plays on the gargantuan jealousies of Richard Griffiths' superb, self-loathing king.
Chichester Festival Theatre
(01243 781313) 7.30pm

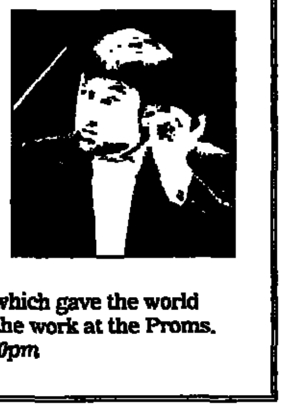
Pop Nick Coleman

THE FOLK person you'll have heard most about this year is **Eliza Carthy**. Her nomination for the Mercury Prize was worthy, not least because in her strong hands, traditionally sourced folk sounds like contemporary music, with kick and bite and plenty of purchase on what goes on in the modern world. If there had been any justice at all last year, then **Kate Rusby** (*right*) would have been similarly fêted for her remarkable *Hourglass* album: a beautiful set of agrarian ballads, some researched, some written by the singer herself, all of them arranged in stripped-down semi-acoustic settings that serve to make space for their narratives to settle and grip. It's as innocently uncomplicated as trad folk can be without being mawkish, twee or self-consciously reverential. And Rusby's voice will one day be recognised as one of the greats.
Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 (0171-485 2206)

For those of a less rootsical, more ambient bent, there is always the first night of the **Festival of Drifting**, on the South Bank. Tonight: the Durutti Column, LaBradford and Bill Nelson.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (0171-960 4242)

Classical Duncan Hadfield

GEORGE GERSHWIN was born 100 years ago today, in celebration of which Anthony Inglis conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a stirring tribute concert. Gershwin's orchestral oeuvre is actually relatively small, so most of his classics are played here, including the "Strike Up the Band" overture, the Porgy and Bess "Symphonic Picture", "An American in Paris" and, inevitably, "Rhapsody in Blue".
Royal Festival Hall, London W1H (0171-935 2141) 7.30pm



The BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Andrew Davis (*right*), presents the first chance for audiences outside London to hear, "live", Anthony Payne's magnificent completion of **Elgar's Symphony No 3**, which had lain dormant for 64 years. It was Davis and the BBC SO which gave the world premiere back in February, since then reprising the work at the Proms.
Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333) 7.30pm

General Release

ARMAGEDDON (12)
This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one. *West End: Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

BABYMOTHER (15)
An endearing reggae musical which takes an old idea and douses it in gaudy colours. The film focuses on Anita (Anjela Lauren Smith), a "babymother" who longs to be a reggae star but is hampered by her responsibility to her son and daughter. *West End: Ritzy Cinema*

LE BOSSU (15)
Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground but is acted and shot with such magnificent braggadocio that its lack of originality is never a problem. *West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minema, Phoenix Cinema*

CHARACTER (KARAKTER) (15)
Mike Van Diem's intelligent but uneven drama about betrayal won this year's Oscar for Best Foreign Language film. It certainly comes equipped with what the Academy adores, but the picture is never as gripping as it should have been. *West End: Curzon Mayfair*

COUSIN BETTE (15)
Balzac's novel about romance and deception in 19th-century France is the basis for this shallow but breezy comedy. *West End: Odeon Mezzanine*

THE DOOM GENERATION (18)
Gregg Araki continues his investigation of apocalyptic modern America with this gory, tongue-in-cheek road movie about a couple who hit the road with a psychotic friend. Fun for the first half-hour, deadening for the rest. *West End: ABC Piccadilly*

DR DOLITTLE (PG)
The thought of Eddie Murphy functioning within the restrictions of a PG certificate may not be a promising one but *Dr Dolittle* proves that his talents are surprisingly pliable. *West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End*

THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)
Robert Redford's film of Nicholas Evans's novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology and agrees to help a New York magazine editor, Kristin Scott Thomas, whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident. *West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road*

KISSING A FOOL (15)
Yet another comedy about the male fear of commitment and yet another film with nothing original to say on the matter. Stars David Schwimmer, best known as Ross in *Friends*. *West End: Virgin Trocadero*

THE LAND GIRLS (12)
Rachel Weisz, Catherine McCormack and Anna Friel are the "land girls" called upon in WWII to pick up the discarded ploughs and take the place of the farmers who have departed for war. Nothing surprising here, but very nicely done. *West End: Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)
In the fictional club at the centre of Whit Stillman's dry and slightly sad comedy, everything sparkles under the light from the glitterball. Stillman does a fine job of capturing the mixture of flair, invigoration and uncertainty by which any burgeoning trend is characterised, and it's refreshing to find a work that is this enchanting and intelligent. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Panton Street, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

LETHAL WEAPON 4 (15)
The latest instalment of the ingratiating comedy-thriller series. This time, Detectives Riggs (Mel Gibson) and Murtaugh (Danny Glover) are up against the Triads in the counterfeiting trade, but a more pressing issue is their own middle-age. A largely joyless, automated ride. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)
Guy Ritchie's film follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but its defining characteristic is a resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. *West End: Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

LOVE IS THE DEVIL (18)
Derek Jacobi gives a ferocious performance as Francis Bacon in this first feature from the acclaimed and adventurous experimental film-maker John Maybury. Among the film's many technical accomplishments are the blurred, twisted and grotesque visual compositions which transform simple images into thrashing flesh storms that strongly evoke the artist's work. *West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill*

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)
The first full-length product of Warners' new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks – and, courtesy of the inevitable Celine Dion, sounds – even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits. *West End: UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End*

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)
In Steven Spielberg's World War II drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad on a compassionate mission to seek out a young private behind enemy lines and return him home to safety. It is unlikely that many viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by emotional catharsis – it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences that are branded on the memory. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)
David Mamet's intricate little thriller is a playful exercise in twisting a plot until it locks; there is a scientific detachment about the way he explores every permutation of his Kafkaesque scenario, though the movie is also slyly funny. *West End: Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

THE X-FILES (15)
David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully, and, for their first big-screen outing, get a meaty conundrum to chew on, involving a shifty secret government and a deadly virus from outer space. Duchovny and Anderson are most engaging; through little dialogue and even less facial movement they manage to convey great tenderness. *West End: Odeon West End, Virgin Trocadero*

Cinema
West End

ABC BAKER STREET
(0870 9020418) ⊖ Baker Street The Last Days Of Disco 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Lethal Weapon 4 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm

ABC PANTON STREET
(0870 9020404) ⊖ Picc Circ The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Cube 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm,8.50pm The Last Days Of Disco 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus The Doom Generation 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Lolita 3.10pm, 8pm Love And Death On Long Island 1.05pm, 6pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
(0870 9020402) ⊖ Leic Sq Hana-Bi 1.10pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm The Horse Whisperer 12.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870 9020403) ⊖ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Le Bossu 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Daytrippers 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm Gadjo Dilo 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Zero Effect 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870 9020414) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road Lethal Weapon 4 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Saving Private Ryan 1.05pm, 4.40pm, 8.20pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-638 8891) ⊖ Barbican Love Is The Devil 6.15pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 5pm, 8.15pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) ⊖ Sloane Square Love Is The Devil 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 3323) ⊖ Clapham Common Lethal Weapon 4 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Saving Private Ryan 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm There's Something About Mary 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-369 1720) ⊖ Green Park Character 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET
(0171-703 4968) ⊖ Elephant & Castle Lethal Weapon 4 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Saving Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.40pm There's Something About Mary 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0990-888990) ⊖ Leicester Square Godzilla 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm, 11.30pm Saving Private Ryan 12noon, 4pm, 8pm, 11.30pm Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm, 11pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) ⊖ Notting Hill Gate Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 9.05pm, 11.15pm Love Is The Devil 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 7pm (+ Short: The Queen's Monastery)

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN
(0870-9070718) ⊖ Ravenscourt Parkway Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Saving Private Ryan 12.20pm, 4.20pm, 8pm There's Something About Mary 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

ICA CINEMA
(0171-930 3647) ⊖ Charing Cross Les Carabiniers 8.30pm Le Petit Soldat 6.30pm La Vie De Jésus 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

METRO
(0171-734 1506) ⊖ Picc Circ Love Is The Devil 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Men With Guns 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CURZON MINEMA
(0171-369 1723) ⊖ Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge Le Bossu 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 6705) ⊖ Notting Hill Gate There's Something About Mary 3pm, 6pm, 8.35pm, 11.15pm (Fri)

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(0181-315 4229) ⊖ Camden Town The Last Days Of Disco 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.50pm, 11.45pm Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm, 11.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.05pm, 11.30pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm, 11.15pm There's Something About Mary 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm, 11.20pm

ODEON HAYMARKET
(0181-315 4212) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Titanic 2pm, 7.15pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(0181-315 4214) ⊖ High Street Kensington Cube 4.35pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm, 12.05am The Horse Whisperer 1pm The Last Days Of Disco 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm, 12.15am Lethal Weapon 4 12.25pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 9.25pm, 12.25am Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4.25pm, 7.05pm, 9.45pm, 12.20am Saving Private Ryan 12.45pm, 4.25pm, 8.05pm, 11.45pm There's Something About Mary 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm, 12.20am

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE
(0181-315 4215) ⊖ Leic Sq There's Something About Mary 12.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm, 11.25pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0181-315 4216) ⊖ Marble Arch Armageddon 12.15am The Horse Whisperer 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.45pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm, 12.05pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm, 11.45pm Saving Private Ryan 1.15pm, 5.05pm, 8.40pm, 12.15am There's Something About Mary 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 9pm, 11.55pm

ODEON MEZZANINE
(0181-315 4215) ⊖ Leic Sq Cousin Bette 3.50pm, 8.40pm The Horse Whisperer 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 6.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(0181-315 4220) ⊖ Swiss Cottage Cube 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.40pm The Spanish Prisoner 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm There's Something About Mary 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON WEST END
(0181-315 4221) ⊖ Leicester Square Deep Rising 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm, 11.30pm The X-Files 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

PLAZA
(0990-888990) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus The Castle 1.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm Cube 1pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm Species II 8.30pm

RENOIR
(0171-837 8402) ⊖ Russell Square Love Is The Devil 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 9pm Secret Défense 1.05pm, 4.25pm, 7.50pm

RITZY CINEMA
(0171-733 2229) BR/ ⊖ Brixton Accatone 1pm Babymother 9.20pm, 11.45pm Clerks 3pm (+ Short: The Rules of Engagement) + Palookaville at 4.45pm The Last Days Of Disco 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm (+ Short: Shave Like You Mean It!) Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm, 11.40pm Love Is The Devil 3.15pm, 5.20pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm (+ Short: The Queen's Monastery) Saving Private Ryan 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm, 11.50pm There's Something About Mary 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm Woo 11.35pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET
(0171-935 2772) ⊖ Baker Street Saving Private Ryan 3pm, 7.30pm There's Something About Mary 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN
(0171-226 3520) ⊖ Angel Saving Private Ryan 3.30pm, 7.40pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL
(0171-435 3366) ⊖ Belsize Park Love Is The Devil 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9.05pm

UCI WHITELEYS
(0990-888990) ⊖ Bayswater Armageddon 2.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.45pm (not Thu) Dr Dolittle 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm The Horse Whisperer 8.25pm The Last Days Of Disco 1.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9pm The Little Mermaid 12.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.35pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 1.40pm Saving Private Ryan 1pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 7.40pm, 8.35pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.25pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA
(0870-9070710) ⊖ Sloane Square/South Kensington Lethal Weapon 4 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 12noon, 4pm, 8pm There's Something About Mary 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD
(0870-9070711) ⊖ South Kensington The Horse Whisperer 1pm, 4.30pm, 8pm The Last Days Of Disco 12.15pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Saving Private Ryan 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 8.40pm The Spanish Prisoner 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET
(0870-9070712) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus The Land Girls 1.05pm, 3.20pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm The Last Days Of Disco 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Spanish Prisoner 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO
(0870-9070716) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Armageddon 11.15pm Eve's Bayou 11.50pm Kissing A Fool 1pm, 3.20pm, 9.20pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm, 11.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9pm, 11.30pm Mr Nice Guy 12midnight Saving Private Ryan 1pm, 4.40pm, 8.15pm Thursday 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm, 11.40pm Woo 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm The X-Files 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4343) ⊖ Leic Sq Armageddon 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.40pm, 11.50pm The Avengers 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1.50pm, 4pm The Land Girls 6.10pm, 9pm The Last Days Of Disco 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm, 11.45pm Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 1.50pm, 2.20pm, 3pm, 4.50pm, 5.20pm, 6pm, 7.40pm, 8.20pm, 9pm, 10.40pm, 11.20pm, 12midnight, 12.15am Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm, 11.40pm Scream 2 10.50pm The Spanish Prisoner 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm, 11.30pm

Cinema
London Locals

ACTON
PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE
(0181-896 0066) ⊖ Park Royal Armageddon 8.35pm Babymother 6.25pm, 11.50pm Deep Rising 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 4.55pm, 7.15pm Dr Dolittle 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm He Got Game 12.30am Lethal Weapon 4 12.05pm, 1.25pm, 3.05pm, 4.10pm, 6pm, 6.55pm, 8.50pm, 9.45pm, 11.40pm, 12.35am Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.25pm, 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 7.40pm, 10.05pm, 12.25am Saving Private Ryan 1pm, 2.05pm, 4.40pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm, 9.05pm, 11.50pm Species II 12.40am There's Something About Mary 1.10pm, 1.55pm, 3.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm, 9.55pm, 12midnight Woo 9.35pm, 11.30pm

BARKING
ODEON (0181-507 8444) ⊖ Barking Deep Rising 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 8pm, 10pm Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2pm, 3.45pm Godzilla 5.45pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.15pm, 3pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.30pm, 7pm, 9.45pm Saving Private Ryan 12.45pm, 4.15pm, 8.45pm There's Something About Mary 12.30pm, 3pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm The X-Files 9.30pm

BARNET
ODEON (0181-315 4210) ⊖ High Barnet Dr Dolittle 4.55pm The Horse Whisperer 1.25pm, 7.40pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 2.20pm, 3pm, 7.30pm There's Something About Mary 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

BECKENHAM
ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction Dr Dolittle 5.50pm Lethal Weapon 4 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Saving Private Ryan 2.15pm, 8pm There's Something About Mary 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.35pm

BEXLEYHEATH
CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bexleyheath Armageddon 12noon, 3pm, 9.15pm Deep Rising 4.45pm, 9.45pm, 12midnight Godzilla 2pm The Horse Whisperer 6pm The Land Girls 11.25am, 2pm, 7.30pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.15pm, 1.15pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.30pm, 9.20pm, 11.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12noon, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm, 12.10am Saving Private Ryan 12.40pm, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.40pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm Species II 12.15am There's Something About Mary 11.30am, 1.10pm, 2pm, 3.45pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.15pm, 9.45pm, 11.45pm, 12.15am The X-Files 12.10am

BROMLEY
ODEON (0181-315 4211) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South Lethal Weapon 4 12.45pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 9.35pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm Saving Private Ryan 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.50pm There's Something About Mary 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm

CATFORD
ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford. Lethal Weapon 4 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 2.30pm, 7.40pm

CROYDON
CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: Croydon West/East Le Bossu 3.45pm The Spanish Prisoner 6.15pm, 8.30pm

SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon. He Got Game 5.30pm, 8pm Lethal Weapon 4 5.40pm, 8.30pm, 11.15pm Saving Private Ryan 4.10pm, 7.30pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Armageddon 8.30pm, 11.40pm Dr Dolittle 1.30pm, 3.40pm Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 6.20pm, 9pm, 9.30pm, 11.55pm, 12.25am Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.05pm, 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm, 12.20am Saving Private Ryan 12.15pm, 1pm, 3.50pm, 4.40pm, 7.30pm, 8.20pm, 11.10pm Species II 12.15am There's Something About Mary 12.40pm, 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 4pm, 6pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm, 12.10am The X-Files 5.50pm

DAGENHAM
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) ⊖ Dagenham Heathway Armageddon 6.30pm, 9.45pm Deep Rising 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm Dr Dolittle 2.20pm, 4.20pm Lethal Weapon 4 3pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 6.40pm, 9pm, 9.50pm, 11.45pm, 12.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm, 11.30pm Saving Private Ryan 1pm, 2pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, 9.15pm, 11.50pm, 12.40pm Species II 12.30am There's Something About Mary 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 11pm, 12midnight Woo 9.40pm, 11.40pm

EALING
VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR/⊖ Ealing Broadway Dr Dolittle 12noon Lethal Weapon 4 2pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 1.15pm, 4.50pm, 8.20pm There's Something About Mary 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

EDGWARE
BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) ⊖ Edgware Dil To Pagal Hai Phone for details Dulhe Raja Phone for details Godzilla 5.20pm, 8.20pm Ishq Phone for details Lethal Weapon 4 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha Phone for details

EDMONTON
LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) ⊖ Tottenham Hale Armageddon Phone for details Babymother Phone for details Barney's Great Adventure Phone for details Deep Rising Phone for details Divorcing Jack Phone for details Dr Dolittle Phone for details Gang Related Phone for details Godzilla Phone for details The Horse Whisperer Phone for details Lethal Weapon 4 Phone for details The Little Mermaid Phone for details Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels Phone for details Lost In Space Phone for details The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot Phone for details Saving Private Ryan Phone for details There's Something About Mary Phone for details Woo Phone for details The X-Files Phone for details

FELTHAM
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Armageddon 12.15pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 9.30pm, 12.20am Deep Rising 7.10pm, 9.40pm, 12.15am Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge 1.15pm, 4.50pm, 8.20pm, 11.45pm Dil Se 12noon, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.20pm Dr Dolittle 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm The Horse Whisperer 11.30am, 6.20pm Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! 11.30am, 3.30pm, 7.30pm, 11.30pm The Land Girls 12noon, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 1pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 7pm, 9pm, 9.45pm, 11.45pm, 12.30am Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.25pm, 2.50pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 10pm, 12.25am Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha 3pm, 9.50pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm, 11pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 2pm, 3.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 9.55pm, 11.40pm, 12.35am The X-Files 9.50pm, 12.20am

FINCHLEY
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) ⊖ East Finchley/Finchley Central Armageddon 5.40pm, 9pm Dr Dolittle 1.20pm, 3.30pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.20pm, 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm, 9.30pm, 12midnight Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm, 12.20am Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.50pm, 11.20pm Species II 12.30am There's Something About Mary 12noon, 1pm, 3pm, 3.50pm, 6pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm, 9.40pm, 11.40pm

GREENWICH
CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Dobermann 11pm Lethal Weapon 4 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm, 11.40pm The Negotiator 8pm Saving Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.30pm, 10.55pm

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-9020413) ⊖ Belsize Park Lethal Weapon 4 1.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Saving Private Ryan 12.25pm, 3.55pm, 7.30pm There's Something About Mary 1.10pm, 5.05pm, 8.15pm

HARROW
SAFARI (0181-426 0303) ⊖ Harrow-on-the-Hill Dil Se 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm Ghulam 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ⊖ Harrow on the Hill Armageddon 9.20pm Dr Dolittle 12noon, 2.20pm 4.20pm The Horse Whisperer 5.50pm Lethal Weapon 4 11.40am, 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 6pm, 8.40pm, 9pm, 11.15pm, 12midnight Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm, 12midnight Saving Private Ryan 12.40pm, 1pm, 4pm, 4.30pm, 7.40pm, 8pm, 11.25pm Species II 11.30pm There's Something About Mary 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.20pm, 4.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.15pm, 12midnight The X-Files 6.30pm, 9.10pm, 11.50pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (0181-315 4213) ⊖ Holloway Road/Archway **Armageddon** 6.55pm **Deep Rising** 12.25pm, 2.55pm, 5.15pm, 7.35pm, 9.55pm **Dr Dolittle** 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm **The Horse Whisperer** 1.10pm **Lethal Weapon 4** 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.25pm, 9.50pm **Saving Private Ryan** 1.50pm, 5.25pm, 8.50pm **There's Something About Mary** 1.40pm, 4.25pm, 7.05pm, 9.45pm **Woo** 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm **The X-Files** 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 9.40pm

ILFORD
ODEON (0181-315 4223) ⊖ Gants Hill **Barney's Great Adventure** 12.55pm **Dr Dolittle** 1.10pm, 3.10pm **Lethal Weapon 4** 11.50am, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm **Saving Private Ryan** 12.20pm, 4pm, 7.40pm **There's Something About Mary** 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm **The X-Files** 5.25pm, 8.05pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston **Lethal Weapon 4** 2pm, 5.10pm, 8pm **Saving Private Ryan** 2.10pm, 7.20pm **There's Something About Mary** 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (0181-315 4217) ⊖ Highgate **Lethal Weapon 4** 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm **Saving Private Ryan** 12.25pm, 4pm, 7.40pm **There's Something About Mary** 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye **Babymother** 5.45pm, 7.35pm, 9.25pm, 11.30pm **Eve's Bayou** 6.40pm **Gang Related** 12.10am **He Got Game** 8.40pm, 11.25pm **Lethal Weapon 4** 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm, 11.40pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm **Saving Private Ryan** 5.20pm, 8.45pm **There's Something About Mary** 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm, 11.45pm **The X-Files** 4.20pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley **Lethal Weapon 4** 1.40pm, 4.55pm, 7.55pm **Saving Private Ryan** 3.20pm, 7.10pm **There's Something About Mary** 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 9020401) ⊖ Putney Bridge. BR: Putney. **Lethal Weapon 4** 12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm **Saving Private Ryan** 1.45pm, 5.15pm, 8.45pm **There's Something About Mary** 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (0181-315 4218) BR/⊖ Richmond **Lethal Weapon 4** 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm **Saving Private Ryan** 1.10pm, 4.50pm, 8.30pm **There's Something About Mary** 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm

ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) BR/⊖ Richmond **Cube** 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm **The Horse Whisperer** 1pm, 4.30pm, 8.10pm **The Land Girls** 1.10pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford. **Lethal Weapon 4** 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm **Saving Private Ryan** 2.25pm, 7.30pm **There's Something About Mary** 2.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-729040) BR: Romford **Armageddon** 2pm, 5.15pm, 8.50pm **Barney's Great Adventure** 12.20pm **Deep Rising** 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm **Dr Dolittle** 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm **Godzilla** 12.40pm **The Horse Whisperer** 8.40pm **Lethal Weapon 4** 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm **Lost In Space** 3.20pm **Saving Private Ryan** 12.30pm, 4.15pm, 8pm **There's Something About Mary** 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 9pm **The X-Files** 6.30pm, 9.10pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup **Lethal Weapon 4** 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm **Saving Private Ryan** 2.45pm, 7.30pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood **Armageddon** 12midnight **Lethal Weapon 4** 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.45pm **Saving Private Ryan** 1.30pm, 4pm, 5pm, 7.45pm, 8.30pm, 11.30pm **There's Something About Mary** 1pm, 2.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.30pm, 6.25pm, 8.15pm, 9.15pm, 12midnight **The X-Files** 11.30pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill **Deep Rising** 2.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm **Saving Private Ryan** 2.20pm, 7.45pm **The X-Files** 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Streatham Hill/⊖ Brixton/Clapham Common **Lethal Weapon 4** 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm **Saving Private Ryan** 1.30pm, 5.10pm, 8.40pm **There's Something About Mary** 1.35pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.35pm **Woo** 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/⊖ Stratford East **Babymother** 10.30pm **Lethal Weapon 4** 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.50pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm **Saving Private Ryan** 2pm, 5.30pm, 9pm **There's Something About Mary** 11.55am, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, 10.15pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton/⊖ Morden **Dr Dolittle** 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm **The Horse Whisperer** 2.15pm, 5.45pm **Lethal Weapon 4** 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm, 12.15am **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 2pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.45pm, 12midnight **Saving Private Ryan** 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm, 11pm **There's Something About Mary** 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm, 11.45pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) ⊖ Turnpike Lane. **Lethal Weapon 4** 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm **Saving Private Ryan** 4.05pm, 7.40pm **There's Something About Mary** 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0990 888990) ⊖ Surrey Quays **Armageddon** 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.30pm **Dr Dolittle** 2.15pm, 4.15pm **The Horse Whisperer** 1pm, 4.30pm, 8pm **Lethal Weapon 4** 12.45pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.45pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm **Saving Private Ryan** 1.15pm, 2pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, 9pm **There's Something About Mary** 12.30pm, 3pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm **The X-Files** 7pm, 10pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (01895-813139) ⊖ Uxbridge **Lethal Weapon 4** 2.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm **There's Something About Mary** 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) ⊖ Walthamstow Central **Lethal Weapon 4** 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm **Saving Private Ryan** 2.30pm, 7.30pm **There's Something About Mary** 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm

WALTON
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames **Lethal Weapon 4** 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm **Saving Private Ryan** 3.25pm, 7.30pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham **Lethal Weapon 4** 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm **Saving Private Ryan** 4.05pm, 7.40pm

WILLESDEN
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) ⊖ Willesden Green **Lethal Weapon 4** 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR/⊖ Wimbledon/South Wimbledon **The Horse Whisperer** 1.45pm, 5pm **Lethal Weapon 4** 2.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.20pm, 11.10pm **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels** 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 11.10pm **Saving Private Ryan** 12.20pm, 3.55pm, 7.30pm, 10.50pm **There's Something About Mary** 2.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm, 11.15pm **The X-Files** 8.20pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) ⊖ South Woodford **Lethal Weapon 4** 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm **Saving Private Ryan** 2.40pm, 7.30pm **There's Something About Mary** 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.20pm

WOOD GREEN
NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) ⊖ Turnpike Lane **Dil To Pagal Hai** Phone for details **Dulhe Raja** Phone for details **Gharwali Baharwali** Phone for details **Jab Pyar Kissie Hota Hai** Phone for details **Maharaja** Phone for details **Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha** 5pm **Salankhen**

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal **Saving Private Ryan** 4.05pm, 7.40pm **There's Something About Mary** 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) **Secret Defénse (PG)** 7pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) **Science And Taboos: TV98 (NC)** 11am **The Gambler (15)** 2.40pm **You Only Live Twice (PG)** 6.15pm **Channel 5: Making The News: TV98 (NC)** 6.45pm **Cries and Whispers (18)** 7.30pm **The Little World Of Don Camillo: Julien Duvivier (NC)** 8.30pm **Special Preview: Monty Python At The Aspen Comedy Festival: TV98 (NC)** 9.15pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) **Everest (U)** 4.05pm **L5 - City In Space (U)** 11.55am, 2pm, 6.20pm, 8.25pm, 10.30pm **Across The Sea Of Time - A New York Adventure (3-D) (U)** 10.45am, 12.50pm, 2.55pm, 5.10pm, 7.15pm, 9.20pm

PHOENIX High Road N2 (0181-444 6789) **Le Bossu (15)** 1.40pm, 6.25pm **Love Is The Devil (18)** 4.20pm, 9.05pm **The Spanish Prisoner (PG)** 5.50pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) **The Big Lebowski (18)** 1pm **As Good As It Gets (15)** 6.15pm **The Rocky Horror Picture Show (15)** 11.45pm

RIO Kingsland High Street E8 (0171-254 6677) **Men With Guns (15)** 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) **Kids Return (NC)** 6.45pm + **Hana Bi** 8.55pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford (0181-568 1176) **The Castle (15)** 1.30pm, 5pm **Babymother (15)** 7pm **Gadjo Dilo (15)** 9pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA(01273-602503) **Metroland (18)** 2.15pm, 7pm **The Last Days Of Disco (15)** 4.30pm, 9.15pm **Deliverance (18)** 11.30pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) **Mimic (15)** 6pm **Love Is The Devil (18)** 6.05pm, 8.30pm **He Got Game (18)** 8.15pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA(01223-504444) **Le Bossu (15)** 2.15pm, 6.50pm **The Last Days Of Disco (15)** 4.30pm, 9.10pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) **The Last Time I Committed Suicide (15)** 7.30pm **Hana-Bi (18)** 8.15pm

CHICHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) **Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18)** 3.45pm, 9pm **Zero Effect (15)** 6.15pm

IPSWICH
FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) **Le Bossu (15)** 6pm, 8.30pm **Mojo (15)** 6pm, 8.15pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) **The Land Girls (12)** 5.45pm **The Apostle (12)** 8.15pm **Gattaca (15)** 11.15pm

OXFORD
PHOENIX PICTURE HOUSE 512526 **He Got Game (18)** 1.30pm, 9pm **The Spanish Prisoner (PG)** 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.30pm **La Dolce Vita (18)** 11.30pm **Matador (18)** 11.30pm

PLYMOUTH
ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) **Sling Blade (15)** 6pm, 9pm

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ● — Seats at all prices ◗ — Seats at some prices ○ — Returns only Matinees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thu, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

◗ **ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS** Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 165 mins.

◗ **ANNA KARENINA** Stage adaptation of Tolstoy's classic portrayal of passion from Shared Experience. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ⊖ Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends 10 Oct, £5-£18. 180 mins.

● **ANNIE** Rags to riches story of the nauseatingly optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/⊖ Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1] 4pm, £7.50-£32.50.

○ **ART** Stacy Keach, David Dukes, George Wendt in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) ⊖ Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8.00pm, [4] 3.00pm, [7][1] 5.00pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

● **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ⊖ Tott Ct Rd. Mon, Wed-Sat 7.30pm, Tue 6.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150 mins.

● **BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ⊖ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3.00pm, [7] 4.00pm, £10.50-£29.50. 165 mins.

○ **THE BLUE ROOM** Nicole Kidman stars in David Hare's adaptation of Schnitzler's *La Ronde*. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5][7] 3pm, £12-£25.

● **BUDDY** Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ⊖ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thu 8.00pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5.00pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £6.75-£30. 160 mins.

◗ **CATS** Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) ⊖ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3.00pm, booking to Dec 19, £12.50-£35. 165 mins.

○ **CHICAGO** Ruthie Henshall stars in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ⊖ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee). 130 mins.

◗ **CLOSER** Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships from *Dealer's Choice* author Patrick Marber. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £7.50-£27.50. 140 mins.

● **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ⊖ Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8.00pm, [5] 3.00pm, [7] 5.00pm, [1] 4.00pm, £9.50-£20. 120 mins.

◗ **CRAVE** New drama from Sarah Kane, looking at love, loss and desire. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [7] 4pm, £5-£10, benches 10p, Mon - all seats £5. 45 mins.

● **DEAD MONKEY** Nick Darke's black comedy stars David Soul. Whitehall Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735/cc 0171-867 1111) ⊖ /BR: Charing X. Tue-Sat 8.30pm, [6][7] 5.30pm, ends 19 Dec, £19-£25.

● **DR DOLITTLE** Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. Labatt's Apollo Hammersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) ⊖ Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mins.

● **DUMB TYPE: [OR]** Powerful techno dance event from Japan's leading performance collective. Barbican Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) ⊖ Barbican/Moorgate. 25 & 26 Sept, 7.45pm, £8-£19.

◗ **GREASE** Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £10-£30. 150 mins.

● **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £7.50-£29.50. 165 mins.

● **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5.00pm, booking to 24 Oct, £10.50-£25. 110 mins.

● **THE LADY BOYS OF BANGKOK** Cabaret performance, featuring stunning female impersonators. Queen's Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590/cc 0171-344 4444) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Tue & Thu 8pm, Wed, Fri & Sat 6pm & 8.45pm, ends 26 Sept, £10.50-£30. 110 mins.

● **A LETTER OF RESIGNATION** Hugh Whitemore's play about the Profumo affair and political morality. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-836 0479) ⊖ Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £12.50-£25. 135 mins.

◗ **THE LIGHTS TWINKLE SOMETIMES** Paul Prescott's bitter-sweet musical is set in 1970s Soho. Jermyn Street Jermyn Street, SW1 (0171-287 2875) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, ends 26 Sept, £15, concs £10.

● **LOOT** Acclaimed revival of Joe Orton's comedy featuring a detective and a bag of money. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/⊖ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8-£25. 110 mins.

● **MAJOR BARBARA** Jemma Redgrave and Peter Bowles star in George Bernard Shaw's classic comedy. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, until 29 Sept, then continuing in rep, £8.50-£27.50. 180 mins.

◗ **LES MISERABLES** Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35. 195 mins.

● **MISS EVER'S BOYS** David Felshuh's disturbing drama looks at the issues surrounding medical experimentation on unknowing black citizens earlier this century in America. Barbican: The Pit Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) ⊖ Barbican/Moorgate. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, ends 3 Oct, £12-£17.

● **MISS SAIGON** Musical which resets the *Madam Butterfly* tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £5.75-£35. 165 mins.

◗ **THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5.00pm, £9-£23. 135 mins.

○ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £10-£35. 150 mins.

◗ **PHEDRE** Diana Rigg stars in Poet Laureate Ted Hughes' new translation of Racine's tragedy. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc 0171-867 1111) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 3pm, until Oct 24, then Nov 6-7, 9-10, 14-16, 21, 23-25, 28, 7.30pm, booking to Nov 28, £5-£29.50. 100 mins.

● **THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY** Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ⊖ Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £7.50-£27.50. 165 mins.

◗ **RENT** Musical inspired by *La Boheme* and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) ⊖ Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
○ **OLIVIER:** Oklahoma! Classic musical from Rodgers and Hammerstein, featuring the song 'Oh What A Beautiful Mornin'.' Mon-Sat 7.15pm, mats Wed & Sat 2pm, ends 3 Oct. 190 mins.

◗ **LYTTELTON:** Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle And Dick Terry Johnson's new play looks at the Carry On actors and recreates Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Babs Windsor on stage. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, continuing in rep.

● **COTTESLOE:** Haroun And The Sea Of Stories Tim Supple's stage adaptation of Salman Rushdie's acclaimed novel. Tonight 7.30pm, continuing in rep. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£19. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000).

○ **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ⊖ Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 mins.

● **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE - THE SONGS OF LEIBER AND STOLLER** The rock and roll hit-makers celebrated in a musical revue that includes 'Jailhouse Rock.' Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.45pm & 8.30pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm, ends 3 Oct, £15-£32.50, Fri mats £10-£25. 135 mins.

● **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/⊖ Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3.00pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins.

◗ **THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE** Belinda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-344 4444) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £15-£27.50. 140 mins.

● **VIA DOLOROSA** David Hare writes and performs this meditation on a trip to Israel and Palestine. Royal Court (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 3 Oct, £5-£19.50, benches 10p, Mon - all seats £5. 90 mins.

○ **WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND** Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836 2428) ⊖ Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50. 120 mins.

● **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238) ⊖ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

THEATRE
BEYOND THE WEST END

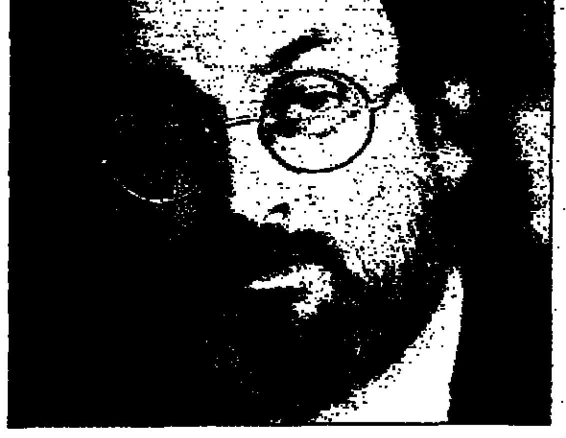
ALMEIDA THEATRE The Play About The Baby Edward Albee's new play which explores the relationships between four people. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 3pm, ends 10 Oct, £9.50-£19.50, concs available. Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) ⊖ Angel.

LYRIC STUDIO Handbag Or The Importance Of Being Someone Mark Ravenhill's new drama takes a look at the art of parenting in the age of sexual diversity. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 4.30pm, ends 10 Oct, £5-£10. King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ⊖ Hammersmith.

ROUNDHOUSE Oh What A Lovely War Joan Littlewood's outstanding musical look at the First World War presented by the National Theatre. Tue-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat & Sun 3pm, ends 4 Oct, £9.50-£21.50. Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-420 0000) ⊖ Chalk Farm.

YOUNG VIC Our Country's Good Study of the civilising power of theatre, by Timberlake Wertenbaker. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 2pm, £17, concs available. The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) ⊖/BR: Waterloo.

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL



First Call
THE GROWN-UP novels of Salman Rushdie *(right)* often seem like fairy tales. But with **Haroun and the Sea of Stories**, Rushdie actually wrote it as a bedtime story for his son. Set in a ruined and forgotten city, it is about a storyteller who loses the ability to tell stories and whose son, Haroun, embarks on extraordinary adventures to restore his father's special talent. Now it has been adapted for the stage by Tim Supple, artistic director of the Young Vic.
Cottesloe Theatre, Royal National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1(0171-452 3000) opens 1 Oct

Last Call
TO FIND OUT just how obscure techno wizards **The Orb** are it isn't necessary to peek into their underground world. Instead, hark back to them playing chess on *Top of the Pops* after their unfeasibly long "Blue Room" landed in the Top 40. Regardless of their low profile, though, they are stamped on our consciousness for the seminal "Little Fluffy Clouds", amazing live shows and an astute visual identity. With their 10th anniversary to mark, they have left the studio to treat us with a show next month.
Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (0171-589 8212) 22 Oct tickets £12.50-17.50

THEATRE
COUNTRYWIDE

ABERYSTWYTH
ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE Tair Welsh language drama about three generations of women. Tonight 7.30pm, £5.95, concs £4.95. Penglais (01970-623232)

BRACKNELL
WILDE THEATRE Crocodiles In Cream A celebration of the centenary of children's novelist Lewis Carroll. Tonight 8pm, £7.50, concs £6.50. South Hill Park (01344-484123)

BRISTOL
NEW VIC STUDIO Horses For Courses *Comic* thriller about three men undertaking three epic journeys. 25 & 26 Sept, 8pm, £9, concs available. King Street (0117-987 7877)

THEATRE ROYAL How The Other Half Loves Alan Ayckbourn's comedy of modern manners. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thu-Sat 8pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, ends 3 Oct, £3-£19. King Street (0117-987 7877)

CHICHESTER
CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE Katherine Howard Richard Griffiths stars as Henry VIII in Nicholson's portrayal of the misogynist king. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, ends 10 Oct, £6.50-£25. Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

MINERVA STUDIO THEATRE The Glass Menagerie Tennessee Williams's tale of a faded Southern belle and her aspirations for her children stars Gemma Jones. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.45pm, ends 10 Oct, £10. Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

EXETER
NORTHCOTT THEATRE She Stoops To Conquer Oliver Goldsmith's comedy about a young man's efforts to woo a society lady. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm, ends 17 Oct, £7-£15, concs available. Stocker Road (01392-493493)

LEICESTER
HAYMARKET THEATRE The Rink Kander And Ebb's sassy musical. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 26 Sept, £8-£18, concs available. Belgrave Gate (0116-253 9797)

MALVERN
MALVERN FESTIVAL THEATRE Amadeus Peter Shaffer's engrossing play inspired by the music of Mozart. 25 & 26 Sept, 8pm, £12-£18, concs available. Grange Road (01684-892277)

OXFORD
OLD FIRE STATION THEATRE Romeo And Juliet Shakespeare's classic love story. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 2.30pm, ends 26 Sept, £8, concs £6.50. George Street (01865-794490)

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE How The Other Half Loves Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a suburban trio. Mon-Thu & Sat, 7.30pm, Fri, 8pm, mats Thu & Sat, 2.30pm, ends 26 Sept, £8-£19.50, concs available. Beaumont Street (01865-798600)

PLYMOUTH
DRUM THEATRE, THEATRE ROYAL Disco Pigs Acclaimed contemporary love story from Enda Walsh. 25 & 26 Sept, 7.45pm, £8.50, concs available. Royal Parade South (01752-267222)

THEATRE ROYAL Gross Indecency: The Three Trials Of Oscar Wilde Corin Redgrave stars as the dissolute Irish playwright in Moises Kaufman's drama. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, £7-£15. Royal Parade South (01752-267222)

POOLE
POOLE ARTS CENTRE Gentlemen Prefer Blondes Sara Crowe stars in this musical featuring the song 'Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend'. 25 & 26 Sept, 7.45pm, £8-£14.50. Kingland Road (01202-685222)

READING
THE MILL AT SONNING Don't Rock The Boat Comedy set on a converted barge. Tue-Sat 8.15pm, mats Sat 2.15pm, ends 17 Oct, £20.95-£31.95, including meal. Sonning Eye (0118-969 8000)

SALISBURY
SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE Antony And Cleopatra This tale of overwhelming passion stars Cathy Tyson. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 1 Oct, £8-£15. Malthouse Lane (01722-320333)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
SWAN THEATRE The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband Not The National Theatre serve up Debbie Issit's dark comedy of adultery and revenge. 25 & 26 Sept, 7.30pm, £9-£12. Waterside (01789-295623)

WATFORD
PALACE THEATRE Dead Funny Caroline Quentin directs Terry Johnson's comedy about a man's obsession with dead comedians. Mon-Thu 7.45pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, ends 26 Sept, £4-£15.75, concs £4-£9.50. Clarendon Road (01923-225671)

YSTRADGYNLAIS
THE WELFARE Ecohome Environmental slapstick comedy. Tonight 7.30pm, £3, concs £2.50. Brecon Road (01639-843163)

EXHIBITIONS

ABERYSTWYTH
ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE An Italian Dream: Luci Melegari Prints inspired by Northern Italy. Ends 28 Sept.
India 50 Photographs by Sebastiao Salgado. Ends 28 Sept.
Claire Curneen Ceramic sculptures of the human figure. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm & perf eves, ends 24 Oct, free. Penglais (01970-623232)

BRIGHTON
BRIGHTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY Disasters Of War: Callot, Goya, Dix Selections from three artists' war etchings. Mon, Tue, Thu-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 4 Oct, free. Church Street (01273-290900)

BRISTOL
ARNOLFINI Udomsak Krisanamis And Peter Doig Work by the two widely exhibited artists. Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 18 Oct, free. Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191)

CAMBRIDGE
FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM William Blake: The Book Of Job Pages from Blake's book with other examples of his illustration. Ends 25 Oct.
Four American Painters: Frankenthaler, Noland, Olitski, Poons Important figures in America's avant-garde. Ends 8 Nov.
From Polidoro To Salvator Rosa Collection of drawings and prints forming the best of Italian Baroque. Opens 22 Sept, Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 23 Dec, free. Trumpington Street (01223-332900)

CARDIFF
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES Victorian Visions: From Rossetti To Whistler Victorian drawings and watercolours. Ends 27 Sept.
Princes As Patrons Over 250 works from the Royal Collection. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, ends 8 Nov, £4.25, child & concs £2.50 (to museum). Cathays Park (01222-397951)

LONDON
NATIONAL GALLERY Venice Through Canaletto's Eyes Twenty-three paintings and drawings by the Venetian artist. Ends 11 Oct, free.
Mirror Image: Jonathan Miller On Reflection Mirrors and reflections in art from Van Eyck to Helen Chadwick. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm), Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 13 Dec, £5.50, concs £3.50, incl audio guide. Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321) ⊖ Charing Cross.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Picasso: Painter And Sculptor In Clay Exploring the ceramic works of the 20th-century artist. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (Fri to 8.30pm), ends 4 Oct, ends 27 Dec, phone for prices.
Critical Mass: Antony Gormley Sixty casts of human bodies. Mon-Sun all day, ends Sept 30, free.
Chagall: Love And The Stage Featuring colourful murals made in Russia. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (Fri to 8.30pm), ends 4 Oct, phone for prices. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-300 8000) ⊖ Green Park.

TATE GALLERY Art Now 15: Fiona Banner New paintings and a drawings inspired by popular culture. Ends 1 Nov, free.
Moonlight And Firelight: Watercolours From The Turner Bequest Exploring Turner's interest in moonlight and firelight. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 11 Nov, free. Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) ⊖ Pimlico.

NEWTOWN
ORIEL 31 Aurora: Shan Edwards Recent work exploring the night sky. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 19 Sept, free. The Park (01686-625041)

OXFORD
MUSEUM OF MODERN ART A Conversation Piece: John Murphy - Juliao Sarmento Collaboration of paintings, objects and installation. £1.50, child free.
All Zones Off Peak: Tom Wood Photographic representation of bus journeys. Tue-Sun 11am-6pm (Thu to 9pm), ends 4 Oct, £2.50 (free Wed morn & Thu eve), concs £1.50, child free. Pembroke Street (01865-722733)

PLYMOUTH
CITY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY Walter Bockhorn Retrospective of the Swiss artist. Tue-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-5pm, ends 7 Nov, free. Drake Circus (01752-668000)

SOUTHAMPTON
SOUTHAMPTON CITY ART GALLERY From Reynolds To Nicholson Major British art.
Renaissance To Impressionism European masterpieces.
Up To 2000 Today's leading artists. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm (Thu to 7pm), Sun 1pm-4pm, ends 18 Oct, free. (01703-832151)

ST IVES
ST IVES TATE GALLERY Colour In Space: Patrick Heron Britain's leading artist's public artwork. Ends 18 Oct.
After Adraga: John Beard Studies of a Portuguese cliff face. Ends 1 Nov, £3.50, concs £2.
Displays 1997-8 Show focusing on the De Stijl group and the contemporaries of Roger Hilton. Ends 1 Nov.
The Fragile Cell: John Wells Paintings by a lesser-known St Ives artist. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 1 Nov, £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

CLASSICAL

LONDON
BARBICAN HALL English Chamber Orchestra/Maksymiuk Including Mendelssohn's 1st Piano Concerto and *Italian* Symphony. Tonight 7.30pm, £7-£22. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) ⊖ Moorgate/Barbican.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Royal Philharmonic/Inglis A centenary tribute to George Gershwin 100 years to the day since his birth. Tonight 7.30pm, £7.50-£27.50. South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/⊖ Waterloo.

SWINDON
WYVERN THEATRE Bournemouth Sinfonietta/Pollanichko Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* and Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*. Tonight 7.30pm, £8-£12. Theatre Square (01793-524481)

OPERA

LONDON
LONDON COLISEUM Otello Verdi's drama after Shakespeare in a new English National staging directed by David Freeman. Tonight 7.30pm, £5-£55. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) ⊖ Leicester Square/Charing Cross.

DANCE

BRISTOL
HIPPODROME THEATRE Rambert Dance Company: Cruel Garden Evocation of the life and work of Federico Garcia Lorca through dance, text and song. Tonight 7.30pm, £6-£19. St. Augustines Parade (0117-929 9444)

LONDON
SADLER'S WELLS AT THE PEACOCK THEATRE Cool Heat, Urban Beat Hip hop, street tap, percussion and poetry from America. Tonight 8pm, ends 27 Sept, £7.50-£25. Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) ⊖ Holborn/Temple.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Legs On The Wall AND Company B Belvoir: Under The Influence Australian physical theatre using dance and acrobatics to delve into the world of compulsions and relationships. Tue-Sun 7.30pm, ends 26 Sept, £7.50, then £12, concs £9. Crisp Road, W6 (0181-237 1111) ⊖ Hammersmith.

LITERATURE

KING'S LYNN
MONIZA ALVI AND PETER PORTER Poetry reading. Poetry Festival Tuesday Market Place (01553-691661) Tonight 7.30pm, £6.50.

LONDON
IN THE COMPANY OF MY BROTHERS Robbie Gee hosts a celebration of black men with spoken word, comedy, dance, poetry and music. Lewisham Theatre Rushey Green SE6 (0181-690 0002) BR: Catford/Catford Bridge. Tonight 8pm, £13.50-£14.50.

WINCHESTER
BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH Popular performance poet. Tower Arts Centre Romsey Road (01962-867986) Tonight 8pm, £7.50, concs £6.50, mems £5.

COMEDY

LONDON
JONGLEURS BATTERSEA John Moloney, Andre Vincent, Jeff Innocent, lugubrious comic Mike Gunn, The Sunday Show's Paul Tonkinson. Tonight 8.45pm, £12, concs £8. Lavender Gardens, SW11 (0171-564 2500) BR: Clapham Junction.

AMUSED MOOSE AT SIR RICHARD STEELE'S Opening night of new comedy club with Rob Newman, *Red Dwarf's* Hattie Hayridge, plus Ben Norris and MC Lee Canterbury. Tonight 7.45pm, £7, nurses £5. Haverstock Hill, NW3 (0181-964 0022) ⊖ Belsize Park/Chalk Farm.

WINDSOR
BEARCAT COMEDY CLUB AT THEATRE ROYAL Top line-up with Simon Bligh, Simon Fox, Jeff Innocent, Pierre Hollins. Tonight 7.30pm, £8. Thames Street (01753-853888)

CLUBS

BRISTOL
DRIVE BY AT THEKLA The Full Cycle crew do their thing. Tonight 10pm-4am, £6, £5 before 11pm. The East Mud Dock, The Grove (0117-929 3301/cc 974 1969)

LONDON
FAR EAST AT THE BLUE NOTE Gilles Peterson, Paul Bradshaw and Ben Wilcox spin soulful jazz, drum'n'bass, reggae and dub. Tonight 10pm-5am, Parkfield Street, N1 (0171-288 1986) ⊖ Angel. £10, concs £8.

EVENTS

BRIGHTON
FORENSIC - BAGS OF EVIDENCE The Scratch crew offer an entertaining and innovative approach to visual art and modern culture. Hove Museum & Art Gallery New Church Road (01273-290200) Ends 4 Oct, phone for details.

LONDON
LOST RIVERS Exhibition of Native American poetry and illustration as part of the Inventing America season. Barbican Library, Barbican Centre Silk Street EC2 (0171-638 0672) ⊖ Barbican. Mon 9.30am-5.30pm, Tue-Fri 9.30am-7.30pm, Sat 12.30pm-5.30pm, ends 1 Oct, free.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS FESTIVAL OF FOOD & DRINK A gastronomic extravaganza including cookery demos by local and celebrity chefs, wine and beer tastings. Royal Tunbridge Wells Festival Of Food & Drink Various venues (0171-352 9015) Ends 27 Sept, phone for details.

MUSIC
POP

BATH
FUZZ TOWNSHEND Big-beat kitsch from the Bentley Rhythm Ace drummer. Moles Club George Street (01225-404445) Tonight 9pm, phone for prices.

BRISTOL
NEIL FINN Crowded House frontman tours his debut solo album, *Try Whistling This*. Colston Hall Colston Street (0117-922 3686) Tonight 8pm, £12.50-£15.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES
GENO WASHINGTON 1960s soul star, paid tribute in Dexys' debut single, 'Geno'. Worcester Park Club Malden Road, Worcester Park (0181-337 1015). Tonight 8pm, phone for prices.

LONDON
JULIA FORDHAM English singer-songwriter tours a new retrospective album. Bloomsbury Theatre Gordon Street WC1 (0171-388 8822) Tube/BR: Euston. Tonight 7.30pm, £12-£15, concs £10-£13.

MEDIAEVAL BAEBES Original music in the early choral style, performed by an ethereal female ensemble of glamorous goths and artists. Broadgate Estates Fleet Street EC4 (0171-482 4000) Today 1pm, free.

SWERVEDRIVER Neo-grunge combo, heavy on the melodic guitars. LA2 Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-434 0403) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 8pm, £9.50.

TV-2 Danish pop sensations arrive in the UK. Shepherd's Bush Empire Shepherd's Bush Green W12 (0171-771 2000) ⊖ Shepherd's Bush. Tonight 7pm, £15-£18.

MUSIC
JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

BRIGHTON
SPIKE WELLS TRIO Top class contemporary quartet featuring pianist Liam Noble. The Lift Queens Road (01273-730515) Tonight 8pm, £6, concs £5.

LONDON
SAMARA Lively Brazilian jazz party grooves. 606 Club Lots Road SW10 (0171-352 5953) ⊖ Fulham Broadway/Earls Court. Tonight 10pm, £5.45.

CLAIRE MARTIN Award winning vocalist with a refreshing approach to repertoire. Blackheath Halls Lee Road SE3 (0181-463 0100) BR: Blackheath. Tonight 8.30pm, £12.50, concs £10.

NOIS Classy Brazilian grooves with vocalist Monica Vasconceles. ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) ⊖ Charing Cross. Tonight 9pm, £8, mems & concs £6.

JASON REBELLO TRIO Leading UK contemporary modal pianist. Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 9pm & 12midnight, £15.

CAROL KIDD Assured Scots cabaret vocalist. Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) ⊖ Hyde Park Corner. Tonight 9.15pm & 11.15pm, £18, adv £16.

DEBORAH BROWN/PETER KING QUARTET Bluesy US vocalist, support from Gerard Presencer's Platypus. Ronnie Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747) ⊖ Leicester Square. Tonight 9pm & 11.30pm, £12, mems £4, NUS £8 (Mon-Thu); £15, mems £8 (Fri-Sat).

PERFECT HOUSEPLANTS Impressive genre-crossing contemporary quartet featuring saxist Mark Lockheart. Vortex Stoke Newington Church Street N16 (0171-254 6516) BR: Stoke Newington. Tonight 9pm, £7.

SOUTHAMPTON
ELIZA CARTHY, HANK DOGS Folk violin entwined with contemporary trip-hop grooves. The Gantry Off Blechynden Terrace (01703-229319) Tonight 8pm, phone for prices.

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FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Moyles: Fax the programme on 0645 110100. **9.00** Simon Mayo. **12.00** Jo Whiley. **2.00** Mark Radcliffe. **4.00** Dave Pearce. **5.45** Newsbeat. **6.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection: With the soundtrack to the weekend. **9.00** Judge Jules. **11.00** Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show: Hardest-edged rap and hip-hop vibes. **2.00** Fabio and Grooverider. **4.00 - 7.00** Charlie Jordan.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy: The Dawn Patrol: news, views and music, plus a review of the morning's papers. Including 6.15 Pause for Thought, with Derek Browning. **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan. **9.30** Ken Bruce: Classic hits, new chart breakers, love songs, the Headline Hunt and the PopMaster quiz. Call 0171 765 5682. **12.00** Jimmy Young. **2.00** Ed Stewart. **5.05** John Dunn. **7.00** Glamorous Nights: the Ivor Novello Story: Chris Stuart profiles songwriter, stage actor, screen idol and playwright Ivor Novello. In the final programme, there is music from Novello's last stage show 'Gay's the Word'. **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night. See *Pick of the Day*. **9.15** Saturday Night and Sunday Morning: Sean Bean continues an eight-part reading of Alan Sillitoe's classic story of life and love in a factory town. **9.30** Listen to the Band. **10.00** David Jacobs. **10.30** Sheridan Morley. **12.05** Charles Nove. **4.00 - 6.00** Jackie Bird.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Constant Lambert.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Archive.
4.00 Music Restored.
4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. In 1554, Philip II of Spain married Mary Tudor in Winchester Cathedral - a historic occasion marking the union of the kingdoms of Spain and England. The Orchestra of the Renaissance, directed by Richard Cheetham, recreate the music that might have been heard during the wedding mass, with John Tavener's monumental 'Missa Gloria tibi Trinitas' interwoven with chant sung by Josep Cabre, and instrumental music by Cabezon, Morales and Tallis.
9.10 Postscript. Tibor Fischer introduces five of the world's leading writers who are, as yet, little known to British audiences. 5: Nicholas Papandreou: Parthena Earns Her Name. Nicholas Papandreou is emerging as one of Greece's leading short story writers. His work draws on the harsh and humorous realities of Greek village life, realities which are decorated with superstition, gossip and intrigue.
9.30 Piers Lane. The pianist plays a virtuoso work by a pupil of Liszt. Tausig: Three Waltz Caprices. (R)
10.00 Hear and Now. Verity Sharp introduces a concert given earlier this evening in St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London. Mieko Kanno (violin), BBC Singers, Lontano/Odaline de la Martinez. Ferneyhough: Flurries. Tavener: Coplas. Ferneyhough: Terrain; Missa brevis.
11.30 Swinging with Uncle Joe.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Mendelssohn. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

PICK OF THE DAY

A NOSTALGIC trip back to the good old days of imminent Armageddon in tonight's play by Liz Lochhead *(right)*. Cuba (9pm R4) is about Barbara and Bernadette, 15-year-old Scottish schoolgirls, diverted from their usual preoccupations – pop music, Hollywood gossip and fantasies about a good-looking teacher – by the Cuban missile crisis, and a conviction that the *world is about to end with a* bang. The play is strong on period detail and the insular eccentricity of school life. More nostalgia: Friday Night is Music Night (7.30pm R2), a programme that even the cult of easy listening kitsch couldn't render fashionable, tonight celebrates its 45th anniversary in the De la Warr Pavilion at Bexhill.

ROBERT HANKS

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 In the Psychiatrist's Chair.
9.45 A Kind of Fallen Angel.
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS; Ramblings. (R)
11.30 Babblewick Hall.
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Foul Play.
2.00 NEWS; The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: Legal Affairs. (R)
3.00 NEWS; Check Up.
3.30 Faith on the Front Line.
3.45 Feedback.
4.00 NEWS; Writers' Masterclass.
4.30 The Message.
5.00 PM.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 The News Quiz.
7.00 NEWS; The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson with the arts show.
7.45 The Jury. By Matthew Solon. A high-profile public figure is fighting a libel case to preserve her reputation. As proceedings get under way, it becomes clear to the members of the jury that the trial will have an impact on their own lives.. With Suzanne Bertish, Patrick Robinson and Kelly Hunter. Director Andy Jordan (10/25).
8.00 NEWS; Any Questions?. Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Lewes, East Sussex, by panellists including Menzies Campbell, and Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development.
8.45 Letter from America. Alistair Cooke with another slice of Americana.
9.00 NEWS; The Friday Play: Cuba. By Liz Lochhead. Set in Scotland in 1962, at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Two girls truly believe that the world is about to end, and suddenly everything pales into insignificance beside their highly imaginative fears. With Julie Wilson Nimmo, Pauline Lockhart and Liz Lochhead. See *Pick of the Day*.
10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Enduring Love. By Ian McEwan, abridged in ten parts by Penny Leicester, read by David Horovitch. A searing tale of love and obsession, set in contemporary London (10/10).
11.00 Late Tackle. Clare Balding hosts more late-night conversation and features on a sporting theme. This edition features a look at Britain's progress on the international tennis scene.
11.30 Horses for Courses.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: The Tesseract.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 Leisure Update.
5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship.
12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. **5.54 - 5.57** Shipping Forecast.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 *News Extra.*
7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight. Reaction to the week's events, and coverage of the First Division game between Tranmere and Swindon.
10.00 *Late Night Live. Insight and* comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including Papertalk. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 *Morning Reports.*

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. **8.00** Henry Kelly. **12.00** Requests. **2.00** Concerto. **3.00** Jamie Crick. **6.30** Newsnight. **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. **9.00** Evening Concert. **11.00** Alan Mann. **2.00** Concerto. **3.00 - 6.00** Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. **9.30** Russ Williams. **1.00** Nick Abbot. **4.00** Bobby Hain. **7.00** Wheels of Steel. **11.00** James Merritt. **2.00 - 6.00** Howard Pearce.

WORLD SERVICE
1.00 Newsdesk. **1.30** From the Weeklies. **1.45** Britain Today. **2.00** Newsdesk. **2.30** Codebreakers. **2.45** Short Story. **3.00** Newsday. **3.30** People and Politics. ***4.00*** *World News.* ***4.05*** World Business Report. **4.15** Sports Roundup. **4.30** Weekend/Insight (SW 5875kHz only). **4.45** Off the Shelf - Human Croquet (SW 5875kHz only). **5.00** Newsday. **5.30** Outlook. **5.55 - 6.00** Spotlight.

TALK RADIO
7.00 Bill Overton and Kirsty Young. **9.00** Scott Chisholm. **11.00** Lorraine Kelly. **1.00** Anna Raeburn. **3.00** Tommy Boyd. **5.00** Peter Deeley. **7.00** Nick Abbot. **10.00** Mike Allen. **2.00 - 6.00** Mike Dickin.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY PREMIER
6.00 A Different Kind of Christmas (1996) (86903). **8.00** Always (1989) (21748). **10.00** Dragonheart (1996) (90293). **12.00** A Different Kind of Christmas (1996) (44699). **2.00** Rainbow (1996) (39106). **4.00** Always (1989) (1380). **6.00** Dragonheart (1996) (42570). **8.00** The Crucible (1996) (21187). **10.00** Daylight (1996) (11212). **12.00** Fargo (1996) (891404). **1.40** The Universal Story (1995) (973133). **3.40 - 6.00** Intimate Obsession (1992) (28470539).

SKY MOVIEMAX
6.00 Bury Me in Niagara (1992) (21455767). **7.35** The Way to Dusty Death (1995) (49452922). **9.35** Destroy All Monsters (1969) (13812106). **11.10** Bury Me in Niagara (1992) (38948309). **1.00** The Way to Dusty Death (1995) (14458). **3.00** Shootdown (1988) (98318212). ***4.45*** *Sense and Sensibility* (1995) (16606767). **7.00** p:review (1903). **7.30** UK Top Ten (5699). **8.00** Femmes Fatales (6421). **8.30** Movie Magic (6458). **9.00** Vegas Vacation (1997) (40388699). **10.45** Black Sheep (1996) (432941). **12.15** Happy Gilmore (1996) (994085). **1.50** Celtic Pride (1996) (238607). **3.30 - 6.00** Jury Duty (1995) (375152).

SKY CINEMA
4.00 The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939) (9593767). **6.00** The Long Ships (1964) (2390670). **8.00** From Noon till Three (1976) (2379187). **10.00** Hollywood Hall of Fame (8800699). **10.30** The Searchers (1956) (3622729). **12.30** Havana (1990) (64080828). **2.55** The Seven-Ups (1973) (1003607). **4.35** Close.

BRAVO
7.00 The A-Team (7678212). ***9.00*** *Real* Stories of the Highway Patrol (3591477). **9.30** Cops (4047941). **10.00** The Basement (8646019). **10.30** Red Shoe Diaries (8655767). **11.00 Film:** Bravo Babes: Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle of Death (1989) (4622922) See *Pick of the Day*. **1.00** Beverly Hills Bordello (7428355). **1.30 Film:** Troma: Nerds of a Feather (8860607). **3.30** Red Shoe Diaries (7588133). **4.00** Beverly Hills Bordello (7509626). **4.30** Italian Stripping Housewives (7409220). **5.00** The Basement (8878826). **5.30 - 6.00** Freaky Stories (8972189).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (2443748). **4.30** Driving Passions (2432632). **5.00** Flightline (8606308). **5.30** Time Travellers (2456212). **6.00** Zoo Story (2453125). **6.30** Untamed Africa (5277477). **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (2433361). **8.00** Lonely Planet (7658458). **9.00** Medical Detectives (3597651). **9.30** Medical Detectives (4027187). **10.00** Travel Machines (7671309). **11.00** Century of Warfare (7526632). **12.00** Flightline (1922684). **12.30** Driving Passions (8997510). **1.00** Travel Machines (3220607). **2.00** Close.

PICK OF THE DAY

THE ODDLY named **Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle of Death (11pm Bravo)**, a 1988 comedy directed by JD Athens, is far from the vacuous piece of nonsense its title suggests. The plot of this tongue-in-cheek satire concerns a feminist ex-chatshow host who takes to cannibalism in the Avocado jungle, where the men are eaten with a guacamole dip, naturally. A well-acted and funny trash-movie tribute with B-movie queen Adrienne Barbeau.

Live Football: Tranmere vs Swindon (7pm Sky Sports 2) *(right)* gives viewers a chance to reflect on the wisdom of the pay-per-view format which the Nationwide League plan to introduce. Tranmere are bottom of Division One and Swindon's manager has just resigned. This isn't quite the calibre of fixture the chaps at Nationwide head-office are targetting – unless of course, the audience are paid for viewing.

PETER CONCHIE

SKY 1
7.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (4727). **7.30** Games World (3607496). **7.45** The Simpsons (77670). **8.15** Games World (7227545). **8.30** Garfield and Friends (68106). **9.00** The New Adventures of Superman (13380). **10.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (55293). **11.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (42729). **12.00** Married with Children (62922). **12.30** M*A*S*H (7588632). **12.55** The Special K Collection (6116076). **1.00** Geraldo (3596090). **1.55** The Special K Collection (51339038). **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (3991081). **2.55** The Special K Collection (9607187). **3.00** Jenny Jones (4290361). **3.55** The Special K Collection (1489477). **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (15038). **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5106). **6.00** Married with Children (8647). **6.30** *Friends (109).* **7.00** *The Simpsons* (6835). **7.30** The Simpsons (6423). **8.00** The Simpsons (5583). **8.30** The Simpsons (4090). **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (47125). **10.00** Cops (63651). **10.30** Cops (89699). **11.00** Friends (16767). **11.30** Star Trek: DSN (36922). **12.30** Law and Order (57959). **1.00 - 7.00** *Long Play* (7309171).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1637877). **7.15** World Wrestling Federation Superstars (773800). **8.15** Sky Sports Centre (5642699). **8.30** Racing News (93903). **9.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (17583). **9.30** Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (36106). **10.00** Football League Review (71767). **10.30** What a Weekend (13767). **11.00** Futbol Mundial (31030). **11.30** Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (49019). **12.00** Euro Tour Golf - Linde German Masters (5662835). **4.00** Formula Three Racing (7962). **4.30** Trans World Sport (12496). **5.30** What a Weekend (7458). **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (48941). ***7.00*** *Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (1477).* **7.30** Super League (80361). **9.30** Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (27458). **10.00** Sky Sports Centre (80854). **11.00** World Wrestling Federation Raw (71019). **1.00** Hold the Back Page (36794). **2.00** World Wrestling Federation Raw (69591). ***4.00*** *Sky Sports Centre (89713).* **5.00** Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (62848). **5.30-9.00** Australian Rules Football - Grand Final Introduction (7638268).

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (7967458). **7.30** Sky Sports Centre (5687106). **7.45** Racing News (8380854). **8.15** Formula Three Racing (5687038). **8.45** Sky Sports Centre (1308534). **9.00** Tight Lines (7669583). **10.00** Ford Golf USA (9604670). **12.00** Ford Football Special Manchester United vs Liverpool (5886583). **2.00** Football League Review (3981380). **2.30** Australian Rules Football (9691293). **4.30** Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (4751458). **5.00** Powerboat and Jet Sport World (3972632). **5.30** World Yachting (4775038). **6.00** World Sport Special (4765651). **6.30** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (4756903). **7.00** Live Football: Tranmere vs Swindon (5063835) See *Pick of the Day*. **10.00** Golf USA (6523962). **12.00** Euro Tour Golf - Linde German Masters (1645423). **2.00** Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (5268369). **2.30** Sky Sports Centre (4904978). **3.30** Ford Golf USA (4766355). **5.30 - 6.00** Gillette World Sport Special (7544220).

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 Trans World Sport (21080583). **1.00** Tight Lines (21066903). **2.00** The Rugby Club (4941019). **3.00** Gillette World Sport Special (34267309). **3.30** Rebel Sports (31966941). **4.00** Sports Unlimited (25804729). **5.00** The Rugby Club (3424361). **6.00** Tennis: Davis Cup Semi-Finals live (26548583). **11.00** Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (25805458). **11.30** World Yachting (49400274). **12.00** Close.

EUROSPORT
7.30 Rally (50039). **8.00** Golf (29038). **9.00** Modern Pentathlon (55380). **10.00** Cycling (4030699). **10.15** Cycling (1810787). **4.00** Mountain Bike (57038). **5.00** Xtreme Sports (5816). **6.00** Bowling (40309). **7.00** F3 (76651). **8.00** Offroad (92699). **9.00** Boxing (72635). **10.00** Darts (75922). **11.00** Xtreme Sports (98922). **12.00** Xtreme Sports (37607). **12.30** Close.

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (7542570). **7.30** Neighbours (7825090). **7.55** EastEnders (4104854). **8.30** The Bill (8649106). **9.00** The Bill (8630458). **9.30** Bergerac (7253922). **10.30** The Sullivans (8852670). **11.00** Dallas (5768090). **11.55** Neighbours (53831583). **12.25** EastEnders (5245361). **1.00** All Creatures Great and Small (4037564). **2.00** Dallas (5544800). **2.55** The Bill (8620670). **3.25** The Bill (4654106). **3.55** Bergerac (1676019). **4.55** EastEnders (8917800). **5.30** Angels (2458670). **6.00** All *Creatures Great and Small (4944800).* **7.00** Don't Wait Up (8828293). **7.40** Dad's Army (2507187). **8.20** The Comedy Alternative: Yes, Minister (8694421). **9.00** Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (8316293). **9.40** Minder (93206361). **10.45** Rising Damp (6133800). **11.20** The Bill (6145729). **11.50** The Bill (2031699). **12.20** Hamish Macbeth (7581797). **1.20 Film:** I Was a Teenage Vampire (1988) (37562688). **2.45 - 7.00** Shopping at Night (65462572).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny Living (3678861). **9.00** Special Babies (8887748). **9.30** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (7919278). **10.00** Jerry Springer (6213903). **10.50** Rolonda (5159800). **11.40** The Heat is On (39617212). **12.30** Jimmy's (2109835). **12.45** Rescue 911 (6692274). **1.15** Ready, Steady, Cook (4873632). **1.50** Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1319477). **2.20** Living It Up! (8204699). **3.20** Rolonda (9302816). **4.10** Tempestt (8996583). **5.00** Ready, Steady, Cook (1240800). **5.35** Can't Cook, Won't Cook (5982903). **6.10** Jerry Springer (6428545). **7.00** Rescue 911 (9572274). **7.30** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (9944670). **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies (2399941). **9.00 Film:** The Only Way Out (1993) (2296800). **11.00** Sex Life Down Under (8985477). **12.00** Close.

TNT
9.00 WCW Nitro on TNT (20902038). **11.30 Film:** The Dirty Dozen (1967) (20983903). **2.00 Film:** Dodge City (1939) (59534039). **3.45 Film:** A Christmas Carol (1938) (57074336). **5.00** Close().

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Roseanne (9019). **7.30** Cosby (5477). **8.00** Grace under Fire (8767). **8.30** Spin City (7274). **9.00** Ellen (59496). **9.30** Seinfeld (45800). **10.00 Film:** This is Spinal Tap (1984) (40748). **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman (82220). **1.00** Saturday Night Live (84336). **2.00** Dr Katz (10249). **2.30** Soap (22084). **3.00** The Kids in the Hall (39713). **3.30-4.00** Nightstand (13336).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC
N IRELAND As BBC1 London except: **6.30 - 7.00** Newsline 6.30

SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except: **6.00** News **6.30 - 7.00** Reporting Scotland; Weather **8.30 - 9.00** The Shop **10.20** Friday Sportscene **10.50** Conference 98 - Scottish National Party **11.20** Film: Sniper **12.55 - 7.00** Joins BBC News 24

WALES As BBC1 London except: **6.30 - 7.00** Wales Today **10.20** Satellite City **10.50** Film: Sniper **12.25** Smith and Jones **12.55** Film: Our Man Flint **2.45 - 7.00** Joins BBC News 24

ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (4418361). **1.00** Justice of the Land (24309). **1.30** Home in the Country (59922). **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show (3834106). **2.45** Cravens Collection (270583). **3.20** Anglia News and Weather (5209496). **5.10** Shortland Street (9184729). **5.40** News; Weather (946125). ***6.00*** *Catchphrase (349564).* **6.25** Anglia News (455600). **10.00** ITN News; Weather (25477). **10.30** Anglia News (681816). **10.45** Film: Risky Business (96386980). **12.35** Nash Bridges (2143442). **1.30** ClubeVision (2316423). **2.15** The Haunted Fishtank (21688). **2.45** Heirloom (20959). **3.15** Film: Thrilkill (546775). **4.45** ITV Nightscreen (80388539). **5.00** Coronation Street (99572). **5.30** News (41862).

CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (4418361). **1.00** Echo Point (24309). **2.45** Our House (270583). **3.20** Central News (5209496). **5.10** Shortland Street (9184729). **5.40** News; Weather (946125). **6.00** Heart of the Country (349564). **6.25** Central News and Weather (455600). **10.30** Central News, Weather and Travel Update (690564). **10.40** Central Weekend Live (28383090). **12.15** Tales from the Darkside (5032775). **3.45** Jobfinder (397046). **5.20** Asian Eye (9826572). **5.30** Morning News (41862).

HTV WALES
As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (124545). **12.15** HTV News (2985274). **1.00** The Dressing Up Show (24309). **1.30** Home in the Country (59922). **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show (3834106). **2.45** Get Gardening! (270583). **3.20** HTV News (5209496). **5.10** A Country Practice (9184729). **6.00** Catchphrase (349564). **6.25** Wales Tonight (455600). **10.00** News; Weekend Weather (25477). **10.30** HTV News (681816). **10.45** Film: Deadly Intentions... Again? (96386380). **12.35** Nash Bridges (2143442). **1.30** ClubeVision (2316423). **2.15** The Haunted Fishtank (21688). **2.45** Heirloom (20959). **3.15** Film: Thrilkill (546775). **4.45** ITV Nightscreen (80388539). **5.00** Freescreen (99572). **5.30** ITN Morning News (41862).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 1.00 Relative Knowledge (24309). **2.45** The Dressing Up Show (270583). **6.25** HTV Weather (9576832). **6.30** *The West Tonight (293).*

MERIDIAN
As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (124545). **12.15** Meridian News and Weather (2985274). **1.00** Justice of the Land (24309). **1.30** Home in the Country (59922). **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show (3834106). **2.45** Doing It Up (270583). **3.20** Meridian News and Weather (5209496). **5.10** Catchphrase (9184729). **5.40** News; Weather (946125). **6.00** Meridian Tonight (68670). **10.30** Meridian News and Weather (690564). **10.40** Looking for Love (543816). **11.10** Get Real (252039). ***11.40*** *Midnight Caller (819274).* **12.35** Nash Bridges (2143442). **1.30** ClubeVision (2316423). **2.15** The Haunted Fishtank (21688). **2.45** Heirloom (20959). **3.15** Film: Thrilkill (546775). **4.45** ITV Nightscreen (80388539). **5.00** Freescreen (99572). **5.30** ITN Morning News (41862).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (124545). **12.15** Westcountry News (2985274). **12.27** Illuminations (4426380). **1.00** *Special Babies (24309).* **2.45** Westcountry Update (270583). **3.20** Westcountry News (5209496). **5.10** Catchphrase (9184729). **5.40** News; Weather (946125). **6.00** Westcountry Live (68670). **10.00** *News; Weekend Weather (25477).* **10.30** Westcountry News (681816). **10.45** Film: Risky Business (96386380). **12.35** Nash Bridges (2143442). **1.30** ClubeVision (2316423). **2.15** The Haunted Fishtank (21688). **2.45** Heirloom (20959). **3.15** Film: Thrilkill (546775). **4.45** ITV Nightscreen (80388539). **5.00** Coronation Street (99572). **5.30** ITN Morning News (41862).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (124545). **12.15** Calendar News and Weather (2985274). **1.00** Home in the Country (24309). **1.30** The Jerry Springer *Show (3804071).* **2.10** *Emmerdale* (4356293). **2.45** Shortland Street (270583). **3.20** Calendar News and Weather (5209496). **5.10** Catchphrase (9184729). **5.40** News; Weekend Weather (299729). **5.55** Calendar (917545). **6.30** Tonight (293). **10.30** Calendar News and Weather (690564). **10.40** Film: Another You (57333361). **5.30** ITN News (41862).

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 3.20 North East News (5209496). **5.55** North East Weather (477403). **6.00** North East Tonight (68670). **10.30** North East News (690564).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 9.00 Ysgolion/Schools (13508093). **12.00** *Suddenly Susan (51582057).* **12.30** Sesame Street (34638309). **1.00** Sioi Maithrin (84508854). **1.30** Unicyclist (34620380). **2.00** Cynhadledd Plaid Cymru (47497090). **4.30** Montel Williams (68616545). **5.00** 5Pump (39114090). **5.30** Countdown (68630125). ***6.00*** *News (48495167).* **6.10** *Heno* (89551038). **7.00** Pobol y Cwm (15395477). **7.25** Y Clwb Rygbi (37022477). **8.00** Gwaith Cartref (39110274). **8.30** News (39139309). **9.00** Frasier (38062019). **9.30** Friends (34618545). **10.00** Brookside (35994309). **10.35** Eurotrash (90114699). **11.30** South Park (69754944). **11.40** TFI Friday (79013570). **12.40** Jo Whiley (97648997). **1.20** Film: Vault of Horror (37405794). **2.55** Film: Bring on the Night (33830978). **4.40** Close.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS
JON SPEELMAN

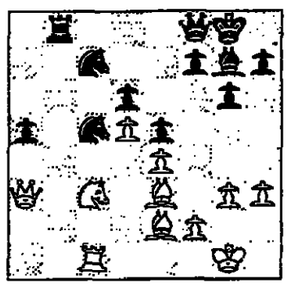
CHARLES STOREY, the organiser of *the Holycity International tournament*, today kicks off the third Holycity tournament at White's Hotel, in Newcastle. The event, which runs until 1 October, will afford opportunities for International Master and Grandmaster norms and provide the top players with an arena in which they can slug it out in the race for the £3,000 first prize in the Onyx-Leigh Grand Prix.

In the absence of leader Mark Hebden, who is representing England at the Olympiad, his two closest rivals Jim Plaskett and Keith Arkell have excellent chances to better their scores; but they must cope with "dark horse" Colin McNab, who, while far behind, has many games in hand.

There was plenty of action last weekend with nearly a dozen tournaments of varying strengths. Storey himself was first equal in the Tyne and Wear Congress. But perhaps most notable were Aaron Summerscale's 5/5 at the Golders Green Rapidplay and Keith Arkell's victory at the Greater Manchester Autumn Congress, where he made the same score, a point clear of Alan Smith and Brett Lund.

In his last-round game against the England women's board three, Arkell got quite a pleasant space advantage from the opening. Black should have tried to exchange off the black squared bishops by playing *...Qf8 to prepare ...Bh6, as soon as* possible – that is either on move 16 or 17. Instead she instituted increasingly committal action on the queen side. And although she did then play 23...Qf8, Arkell was already in time with 24 a5! to break open that flank.

In the diagram 26 Bxc5! saddled



Black with a permanently bad pawn structure albeit with "opposite coloured bishops": a type of advantage which Arkell would be delighted with. Instead 26 Qxa5? would have run into Nb3! 27 Qxc7 Rc8 winning material. 30...Nxd5? was inventive – if 31 exd5? Qxd5 32 f3 Qd4 33 Qxc5 Qxa4 is excellent, but failed to the intermediate 31 Qa8+.

White: Keith Arkell
Black: Ruth Sheldon
Greater Manchester 1998
King's Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6	17 Be2 Rab8
2 Nf3 g6	18 Be3 a6
3 c4 Bg7	19 a4 b6
4 g3 d6	20 Rfc1 a5
5 Bg2 0-0	21 Rab1 axb4
6 0-0 c6	22 Qxb4 Nc5
7 Nc3 Qa5	23 Qa3 Qf8
8 e4 Bg4	24 a5 bxa5
9 h3 Bxf3	25 Rxb8 Rxb8
10 Bxf3 e5	(see diagram)
11 d5 cxd5	26 Bxc5! dxc5
12 cxd5 Na6	27 Qxa5 Bh6
13 a3 Rfc8	28 Rc2 Qd6
14 Bd2 Qd8	29 Na4 Rb1+
15 b4 Nd7	30 Kh2 Nxd5?
16 Qb3 Nc7	31 Qa8+! resigns

speelman@compuserve.com

BRIDGE
ALAN HIRON

TACTICS, WHEN you hold AJx in a suit facing xxx and the king is led against you, have changed over the years. In whist-playing days the concept of ducking (the Bath Coup) was hailed as a brilliant innova*tion, for West invariably continued* the suit.

Nowadays, however, most defending pairs have got their act together. Take this deal where South opened One Club, West overcalled in spades, and North raised to Two Clubs. South jumped to 3NT and all passed. West duly led ♠K, and now a duck by declarer would hardly help. Modern Easts would drop the jack under the king, if they held it, and, with only low cards (as here), would simply give their partner a count.

So, when the play starts ♠K, ♠4, ♠3 and S♠8, it would be a naive West who continued the suit. Instead, a switch to ◊K established three diamond tricks for the defenders, and East still has ♣K as an entry.

Equally clearly, it would not have helped declarer to win the first spade for, when East gets in with ♣K, his spade return finishes matters.

Game all; dealer South

North
♠7 6 4
♡6 5
◊10 6 3
♣A Q 8 5 2

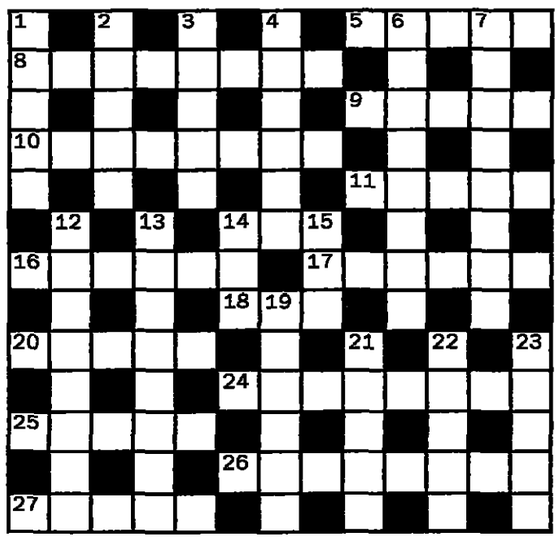
West	East
♠K Q 10 9 5	♠3 2
♡9 7 4 2	♡J 10 8 3
◊K Q 2	◊J 9 8 4
♣4	♣K 7 6

South
♠A J 8
♡A K Q
◊A 7 5
♣J 10 9 3

Finally, as actually happened at the table, South tried a different tack altogether. He dropped ♠J under the lead of the king! Convinced that declarer must have started with ♠AJ alone (and not paying sufficient attention to his partner's carefully chosen ♠3), West continued spades instead of switching to diamonds. Now declarer won and could safely finesse in clubs.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3725 Friday 25 September



ACROSS
5 Part of train (5)
8 Thick velvet-like material (8)
9 Religious song (5)
10 Element found in atmosphere (8)
11 Openly disregard (5)
14 Border (3)
16 At once (6)
17 Cunning (6)
18 Gratuity (3)
20 Old Peruvians (5)
24 Opera text (8)
25 Disadvantages (5)
26 Sheath for sword (8)
27 Teem (5)

DOWN
1 In short supply (5)
2 Greek letter (5)
3 Of less importance (5)
4 Sheep's wool (6)
6 No longer in use (8)
7 Branch of mathematics (8)
12 Completely unused (5-3)
13 Put at risk (8)
14 Of high temperature (3)
15 Chart (3)
19 Extreme foolishness (6)
21 Improper financial inducement (5)
22 Book of maps (5)
23 Frumpish (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Porsche, 5 Geese (Portuguese), 8 Wedge, 9 Glanced, 10 Residence, 12 Use, 13 Centre, 14 Quotes, 17 Lea, 18 Dark horse, 20 Brigand, 21 Libya, 23 Ebony, 24 Residue.
DOWN: 1 Power, 2 Rod, 3 Cheddar, 4 Engine, 5 Glare, 6 Encounter, 7 Endless, 11 San Marino, 13 Calibre, 15 Upholds, 16 Trader, 18 Dairy, 19 Erase, 22 Bid.

SERENA MACKESY

TELEVISION REVIEW

I HAVE TO ADMIT that, although I know I was meant to be disturbed by The Falconer (C4), what I actually felt was a profound sense of comfort. Comfort because it's so rare to see something intelligent, demanding and amusing all at once in the fiction sphere, that when you do see it, you heave great sighs of pleasure. And comfort particularly because I had previously thought myself isolated in my muttered feelings about the bigwigs of the Sixties.

Christ Petit and Iain Sinclair's fictional investigation of one such figure, a mysterious writer, film-maker, artist and sexual-partner-to-the-famous called Peter Whitehead, made me feel at last that I am not alone. Because, despite the prevailing view that the Warhols, Kerouacs and so on were among the great thinkers and revolutionaries, I have always nursed the feeling that they were rather creepy middle-aged mythomaniacs who persuaded much younger people to have sex with them by talking a load of cobblers. I grew up in Oxford, where creepy middle-aged English dons persuade much younger people to sleep with them by the same means to this day, so I can't help it.

I complained yesterday about Inspector Pitt being confusing this, too, was confusing, but in the way that *Seven*, or *Don't Look Now*, are confusing, rather than as a by-product of sloppy planning. I have rarely seen so many camera tricks crammed into one edgy hour. Shots of landscape through a rain-soaked window, jiggy intercuts, home-movie reels, hairs on the lens, CCTV, one-second delay-frames, black-and-white stills, superimposition and transmission snow all played a part. There was also a soundtrack that consisted of the gabble of rewinding cassette tape, corrupted voices that would have got the soundman into real trouble had it been accidental, and distant radio signals like the sampling in house music.

Plus some good off-the-cuff gags: we were introduced to a leading conspiracy theorist at Fatboy's Diner, "a well-advertised front for industrial espionage", and famous Sixties leftover Howard Marks – who spoke on screen for a full two minutes without once saying anything intelligible – was described as "a kippered Bill Wyman retread". Oh, and I loved the idea of Prince Charles being ritually slaughtered at Greenwich to celebrate the Millennium: if Mandelson's still running short of ideas by the beginning of next year...

So: Whitehead (a name shared with a character in Martin Amis's *Dead Babies*), was the Nosferatu. Or was he? He obviously had some sort of hypnotic power over those with whom he came into contact, but the rather less impressionable "Gentlemen of the Cadaver Club" talked of him cynically as "somebody who always had to have one more story to tell". Towards the end of the film, a disembodied voice said "He'll tell you he's done all these things, and you'll start off not knowing whether to believe it or not; but in the end, it has to be lies, it has to be fiction...". Don't we all know someone like that? "Renegade TV" deserves applause for giving airtime to weird and wonderful inventions like this; it's a shame that only those who don't have to get up the next day will get to see it.

That's the bouquets thrown: now for the brickbats. You would have thought, given that weddings have to be among the places-most-likely to have someone with a video camera switched on, that Weddings From Hell (ITV) would have managed to track down an hour's worth of disaster. Sadly not, it seems. You can always tell that a documentary's material is too thin for the time slot when the makers resort to lingering shots of architecture and repeats of shots we've already seen. This had both, and what felt like hours and hours of talking heads drearily repeating, blow-by-blow, what had happened during a scene we had just watched.

There were a couple of snips that raised a belly-laugh – the bride who toppled over when her husband shut her veil in the car door and the wedding cake sent flying by a carelessly opened door were pure Laurel and Hardy – but there were precious few in an hour's viewing. Pride of place was given to a couple who had banned his parents from their upcoming ceremony and told us (dully) all about it in part two. Part three promised the wedding. What happened? They got married, uninterrupted. Repeats of Beadle would have been more interesting.

Thomas Sutcliffe is away

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (69670). **7.00** News (T) (29854). **9.00** Kilroy (S) (T) (7319748). **9.40** Style Challenge (S) (7265458). **10.05** Top Tip Challenge (S) (9222167). **10.30** Daily Live (S) (T) (481994). **10.55** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1460477). **11.00** Real Rooms Revisited (S) (1470854). **11.25** Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (T) (973941). **11.55** News; Regional News; Weather (7576941). **12.00** Through the Keyhole (S) (T) (7492564). **12.25** Wipeout (S) (7411699). **12.50** The Weather Show (S) (1796049). **1.00** News; Weather (T) (22941). **1.30** Regional News (4152498). **1.40** Neighbours (S) (97764212). **2.05** Breakers (29557699).

2.25 Tennis – Davis Cup. Coverage of Britain's opener against India from Nottingham (S) (7885019).

3.25 Children's BBC: Spot (6213699). **3.30** Playdays (R) (7316038). **3.50** The All-New Popeye Show (6340835). **3.55** Dear Mr Barker (S) (4633380). **4.10** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (S) (T) (6836835). **4.35** Clarissa Explains It All (S) (T) (3961835). **5.00** Newsround (S) (T) (6192167). **5.10** Blue Peter (S) (T) (6435167). **5.35** Neighbours (S) (T) (705403).

6.00 News; Weather (T) (545).

6 PM **6.30 Regional News.** And weather (T) (125).

7 PM **7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson.** Consumer moans (S) (T) (9903).

7.30 Top of the Pops. Mel B's fabulous "I Want You Back" is at number one. She's joined by The Divine Comedy, PJ Harvey, Eels and, er, Aerosmith (S) (T) (885361).

7.55 Fawlty Towers. "The Kipper and the Corpse". The one where Basil decides to dispose of a dead hotel guest himself (R) (T) (364380).

8 PM **8.30 Only Fools and Horses.** A Christmas visitor throws the Trotter household into confusion in the ongoing ducking 'n' diving repeats (R) (T) (4458).

9.00 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (4670).

9 PM **9.30 Dangerfield.** Much-improved police-surgeon drama. Dr Paige (Nigel Havers playing various shades of quizzical) is called to the police station to treat a confused schizophrenic who has stopped taking his medication and is showing signs of aggression. When his mother insists she can cope with her son, our man reluctantly releases him (S) (T) (373380).

10 PM **10.20** CHOICE **Sniper** (Luis Llosa 1992 US). Mismatched marksmen are dispatched to the Panamanian jungle to take out a rebel drugs baron. See *Film of the Day*, below (S) (433632).

11.55 Smith and Jones. Alas (R) (T) (488941).

12.25 FILM **Our Man Flint** (Daniel Mann 1966 US). Jolly James Bond hybrid with James Coburn as the urbane counter-spy who has a cigarette lighter with 83 different uses. He's selected by ZOWIE (Zonal Organisation on World Intelligence Espionage, since you asked) chief honcho Lee J Cobb to stop mad scientists from dominating the world by controlling the weather. (Followed, ironically enough, by the Weather) (107442).

2.15 Joins BBC News 24 (12294510). To 7am.

BBC2

7.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies (S) (1104274). **7.25** Smurfs' Adventures (R) (5661941). **7.45** Cartoon Critters (R) (S) (T) (36670). **8.15** Noah's Island (R) (S) (4699498). **8.35** Spot (R) (6182748). **8.45** Harry and the Hendersons (S) (T) (6356922). **9.10** See You, See Me (S) (8339019). **9.30** Watch (S) (9446090). **9.45** Come Outside (S) (9441545). **10.00** Teletubbies (S) (82835). **10.30** Megamaths (S) (8888361). **10.50** Look and Read (S) (6806125). **11.10** Landmarks (S) (T) (7556458). **11.30** English File: Poetry Backpack (S) (2467). **12.00** Testament: the Bible in Animation (S) (T) (20922).

12.30 Working Lunch. (63125). **1.00** Johnson and Friends (R) (S) (57546545). **1.10** The Countryside Hour (S) (2806499). **2.10** Conference Live 98 – Scottish National Party (S) (T) (4369767). **2.45** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (9287293). **2.50** Conference Live 98 – Plaid Cymru (S) (T) (8867361). **3.25** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (5204941).

3.30 Tennis – Davis Cup. Sue Barker introduces coverage of the opening singles matches in Britain's Davis Cup tie against India (S) (993926).

6.00 The Simpsons. Double-bill of the inspired cartoon sitcom. In "Simpson and Delilah", Homer finds life miraculously improved by an expensive hair-growth product. In "The Call of the Simpsons" (at 6.25pm), the family find themselves stranded in the wild (R) (T) (352036).

6.45 Conference Talk 98. Highlights from the Scottish National Party's annual conference in Inverness and Plaid Cymru's gathering in Cardiff (S) (693748).

7.30 CHOICE **How to Make a Movie.** New three-part guide to the tricks of the movie biz. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (S) (651).

8.00 Country Tracks. Clouds, puffballs and all the latest on the volunteer survivalists (S) (T) (6293).

8.30 Gardeners' World. Alan Titchmarsh is at Barleywood to clean up the garden for winter and plan for the spring. Plus, Pippa Greenwood on the perfect lawn (S) (2800).

9.00 Game On. Archie's mother and sister come to dinner with Mandy, Martin and Matthew in the mirthless flatshare sitcom (R) (S) (T) (2212).

9.30 Rab C Nesbitt. The latest series of Glaswegian street philosophy comes to an end with Jameels plunging an emotional knife deep between Rab's shoulder-blades (S) (T) (43361).

10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Comedy pop-quiz guests include The Divine Comedy's Neil Hannon and Natalie Appleton from All Saints (S) (T) (21651).

10.30 Newsnight. With Kirsty Wark (T) (577564).

11.15 Rock Family Trees. "Banshees and Other Creatures". The weakest film so far in an excellent series trawls the post-punk aftermath of Adam Ant, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Public Image Ltd and so on (107552).

12.05 Comedy Nation (S) (8515249). **12.35** Later with Jools Holland (R) (S) (2137881).

1.35 FILM **The Female Jungle** (Bruno VeSota 1955 US). The debut of Jayne Mansfield is the only matter of note in this drab whodunnit about a drunk police officer found at the scene of an actress's murder (8511713). To 2.50am.

ITV Carlton

6.00 GMTV (1868941).

9.25 Trisha (T) (6295670). **10.15** This Morning (T) (84888361). **12.20** Your Shout (4418361). **12.30** News; Weather (T) (50651). **1.00** London Today (T) (24309). **1.30** The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (7839670). **2.15** Home in the Country (S) (T) (271212). **2.45** Carlton People (S) (T) (270583). **3.15** ITN News Headlines (T) (5202583). **3.20** London Today (T) (5209496).

3.25 Children's ITV: Wizadora (R) (5299019). **3.35** Archibald the Koala (4848212). **3.50** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (4629125). **4.00** Blazing Dragons (S) (T) (8841767). **4.20** Fun House (S) (T) (6355767). **4.50** The Zig and Zag Show (S) (T) (8041187).

5.10 The London Programme interview. Ian Dury, the former Blockheads frontman now suffering from cancer, is Trevor Phillips's interviewee (S) (9184729).

5.40 News; Weekend Weather (T) (946125).

6.00 London Weekend Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East (T) (941).

6.30 Des Res. Ulrika Jonsson doorsteps Bill Oddie and discovers a jungle bedroom as well as a study which his daughter thinks is disgusting (R) (S) (293).

7.00 Bruce's Price Is Right. More people who think they know the price of everything submit themselves to Bruce Forsyth (S) (T) (4699).

7.30 Coronation Street. Rita tells Sally some home truths. Roy has a proposition for Hayley (T) (477).

8.00 Noah's Ark. The sort of drama series where they seem to have come up with the title first, then the lead character's name, etc. Vets in Worcestershire, basically, with Anton Rodgers the reassuring presence at the centre of interweaving storylines about injured racehorses, ex-husbands and reports of animals being deliberately mutilated (S) (T) (2187).

9.00 Des O'Connor Tonight. Dolly Parton, Bob Monkhouse and girlie band B*witched come to bask beneath the beneficent perma-tan (S) (5651).

10.00 News; Weather (T) (25477).

10.30 Crime Fighters. Police answer a report of fire and find a drugs factory, and the Vice Squad try to clean up prostitution in Paddington, Mayfair and Streatham. Oh, that old one (S) (34125).

11.00 Remember. Concluding this two-part mini-series starring Donna Mills as a TV journalist whose fiancé disappeared on their wedding day (S) (T) (775877).

12.35 London Weekend Tonight (T) (9557201). **12.40** Nash Bridges (R) (S) (T) (9408404). **1.35** Club Vision (S) (2315794). **2.20** ITV at the Reading Festival (6815201). **3.15** World Football (10572). **3.45** Trisha (R) (T) (4133572). **4.30** Cybernet (R) (S) (5138259l). **4.55** ITV Nightscreen (8076684). **5.30** ITN Morning News (6470065). To 6am.

Channel 4

7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (T) (12564).

9.00 Channel 4 Schools. Off Limits (3581212). 9.25 Schools at Work (9508293). 9.30 Eureka! (9448458). 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (9469941). 10.00 The Complete Cosmos (4926903). 10.10 TVM (9926922). 10.25 Caraldean 2 (9920477). 10.40 Topi En Espanol (6804309). 11.00 The Technology Programme (3342670). 11.15 Stage One (3332293).

11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (R) (S) (5545). **12.00** Sesame Street (15090). **12.30** I Dream of Jeannie (T) (68293). **1.00** Watercolour Challenge (T) (15651). **1.30** Two Bob Mermaid (34045106).

1.50 FILM **Against the Wind** (Charles Crichton 1948 UK). Shot in semi-documentary style, this patriotic wartime film follows a group of volunteers training as British saboteurs (T) (51697477).

3.30 Wings (R) (699). **4.00** Fifteen to One (S) (T) (106). **4.30** Countdown (S) (T) (3976274). **4.55** Ricki Lake (S) (T) (8432212). **5.30** Pet Rescue (S) (T) (670).

6.00 TFI Friday. Bryan Adams and Steve Coogan are in for a chat. Music from The Beautiful South, Fun Lovin Criminals and Fastball (S) (68212).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (S) (T) (854922).

7.55 Algeria Daily. Continuing series on the civil war ravaging Algeria (331125).

8.00 Gardens of the Caribbean. Anne Swithinbank's canny horticultural tour of the Caribbean reaches Barbados (S) (T) (1361).

8.30 Brookside. Ron interviews an old flame. Danny gives Ollie an ultimatum. Jimmy is thrilled with his first payslip (S) (T) (9516).

9.00 Friends. Phoebe finds out whether she is pregnant or not (S) (T) (7380).

9.30 Spin City. A brief visit from the Pope has a profound effect on the Mayor (S) (T) (45729).

10.00 Frasier. Frasier's ex-wife Lilith (the wonderful Bebe Neuwirth) turns up in Seattle in these continuing repeats from the first series (R) (S) (T) (23019).

10.30 CHOICE **Eurotrash.** Antoine and Jean-Paul together again. See *Comedy of the Day*, below (S) (T) (857212).

11.05 South Park (T) (807980). **11.35** TFI Friday (S) (T) (359380). **12.35** Jo Whiley (S) (T) (4269220).

1.15 FILM **Vault of Horror** (Roy Ward Baker 1973 UK). Daniel Massey, Michael Craig, Curt Jurgens, Terry-Thomas and Tom Baker – all stuck in a lift – each in turn recalls a nightmare (260046).

2.50 FILM **Bring on the Night** (Michael Apted 1985 UK). Documentary about Sting preparing for a tour (124626).

4.35 TV Sculpture (67719423). **4.50** Beat That Einstein (R) (S) (T) (7843336). To 5.30am.

Channel 5

6.00 5 News and Sport (S) (6244922). **7.00** WideWorld (R) (S) (T) (1234496). **7.30** Milkshake! (S) (5207212). **7.35** What a Mess (1374583). **8.00** Havakazoo (S) (9316800). **8.30** Dappledown Farm (9428699). **9.00** Wildlife SOS (R) (S) (T) (5211670). **9.25** Russell Grant's Postcards (6155038). **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (R) (7088564). **10.20** Sunset Beach (S) (T) (4250767). **11.10** Leeza (4986831). **12.00** 5 News at Noon (9499187). **12.30** Family Affairs (S) (T) (2791361). **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (1233767). **1.30** Sons and Daughters (2790632). **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (7079831).

2.30 Open House with Gloria Hunniford. Vidal Sassoon and opera singer Bryn Terfel are in the house (S) (3979106).

3.30 FILM **The Android Affair** (Richard Kletter 1995 US). This is indeed a bit of an android affair – a robotic and slow-witted adaptation of an Isaac Asimov story about a female doctor who falls in love with an android (Griffin Dunne – what on earth happened to *his* career?) (S) (2772306).

5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show (9749212).

6.00 100 Per Cent. The game show without a host (S) (4863293).

6.30 Family Affairs. Pete discovers that some of his cocaine is missing and allows Liam to start dealing (S) (T) (4854545).

7.00 5 News, including First on Five. The news and the pitter-patter of Kirsty Young's feet (S) (T) (9974467).

7.30 Polar Odyssey. Documentary about life on the remote Canadian island of Bathurst, near the magnetic North Pole (S) (T) (4850729).

8.00 The Car Show. Mariella Frostrup test-drives the Lexus GS300 while Tristram Payne looks at the Toyota Celica (S) (3679076).

8.30 Sick as a Parrot. Retired boxing champion Gary Mason and former England rugby player Mickey Skinner are the best they can come up with (8429372).

9.00 FILM **Nothing but the Truth** (Michael Switzer 1995 US). There's nothing at all in this murder mystery, in fact, unless you happen to be a former *Thirtysomething* fan feeling wistful for that groundbreaking late Eighties drama. For it stars real-life husband and wife Ken Olin and Patricia Wettig (Michael and Nancy, as they were) – she as a lie-detector expert, he as an old flame who happens to be a murder suspect (S) (T) (77214212).

10.50 Roy and HG's Planet Norwich. The urine-extracting Aussie comic duo's guests are Chris Eubank, Richard E Grant and Chumbawumba (S) (9031477).

11.50 FILM **Meatballs III: Summer Job** (George Mendeluk 1987 US). A dead porno star teaches a teenage nerd how to lose his virginity at summer camp. Sally Kellerman is somehow involved (7984458).

1.40 FILM **Spider and Rose** (Bill Bennett 1994 Aus). Age-gap road movie (S) (9273143).

3.15 FILM **The Pleasure Girls** (Gerry O'Hara 1965 UK). Swinging London nonsense (27208046). To 4.40am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

HOW TO MAKE A MOVIE (7.30pm BBC2) As it says on the packet, a nuts-and-bolts guide to getting a motion picture onto to the screen. This first programme (of three) is called "Development Hell" and joins various sets of producers as they try to get their movies financed. Sarah Curtis and Douglas Rae (*right*) of Ecosse Films would seem to have the easiest job. They produced *Mrs Brown* and have *The Full Monty* writer Simon Beaufoy scripting their latest. The going is harder for Nigel Harper, who has £500,000 for his horror movie, but needs to find a million more. The likes of Alan Parker and Tim Bevan are on hand with further tips.

COMEDY OF THE DAY

EUROTRASH (10.30pm C4, *right*) It's rather sweet that we're still going to the French for our sexual licence. For this (the 10th series) Antoine de Caunes is rejoined by his former co-presenter, Jean-Paul Gaultier. This reunion restores the right sort of balance, with a modern gay sensibility to this otherwise rather leery old-fashioned, oompah-oompah, oo-la-la view of our European neighbours. De Caunes is joined by Dana International, the transsexual who won this year's Eurovision Song Contest, while there are reports on a stripping flamenco dancer, an Italian born-again virgin and the world mosquito killing championships in Finland.

FILM OF THE DAY

SNIPER (10.20pm BBC1, *right*) Channel 5 usually comes to the rescue of dreary film days like these with some long-forgotten piece of trash, but apart from *The Pleasure Girls* at 3.15 in the morning, they've settled today for the merely poor. So take yourselves instead to the jungles of Panama, and join Tom Berenger and Billy Zane as mismatched assassins sent to take care of a "rebel leader" (this was two years after the US took care of the legitimate leader, General Noriega). It's a thoughtful personality-clash piece, with Zane as the rookie marksman who has never killed before – a casting against type for him, after playing such a good psycho in *Dead Calm*.